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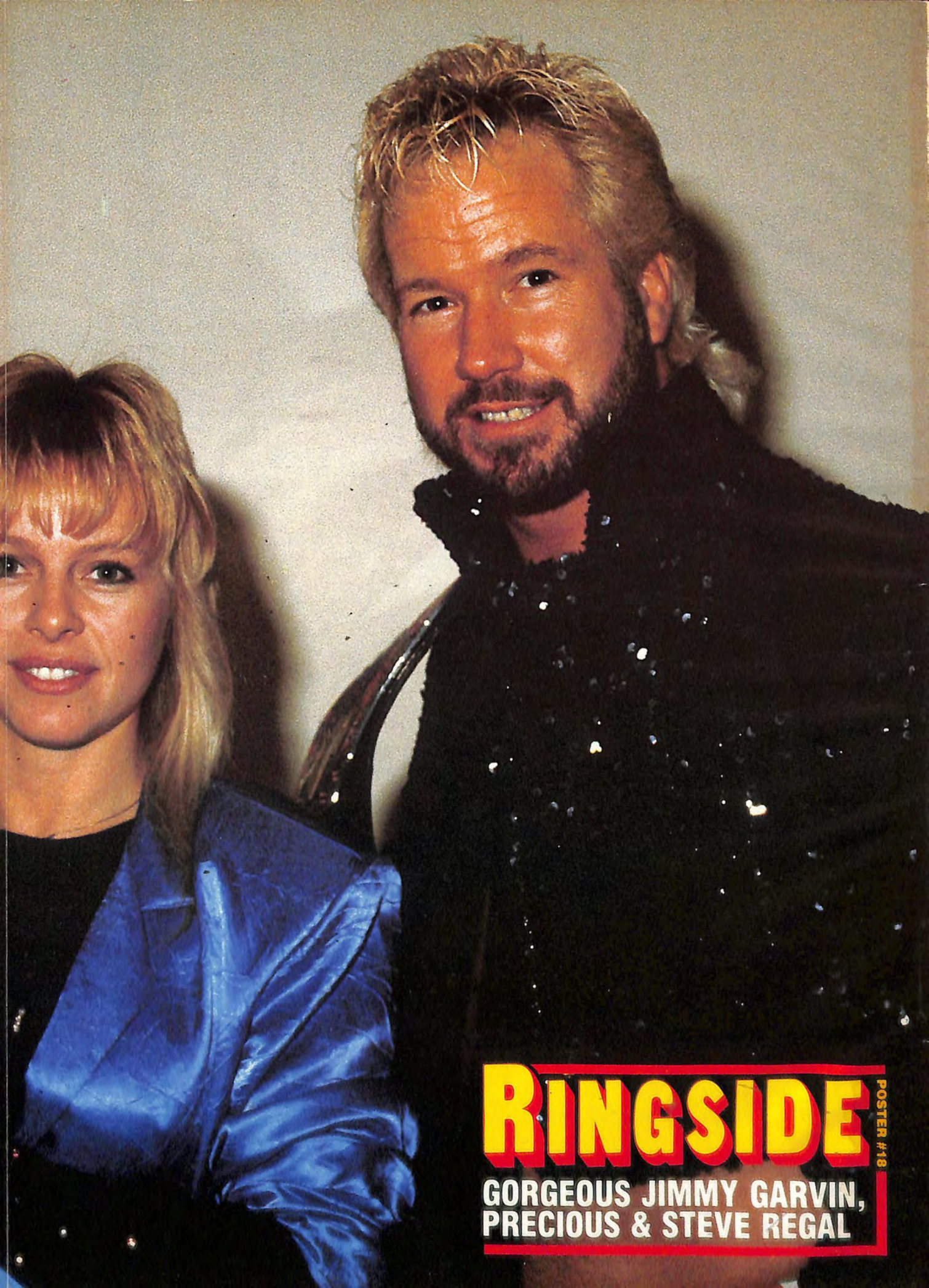
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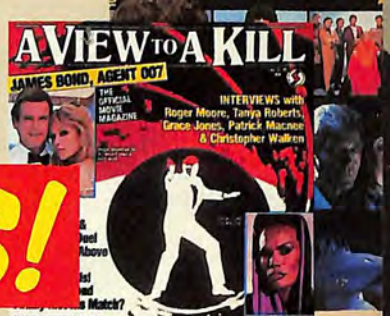

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Business and Editorial Offices
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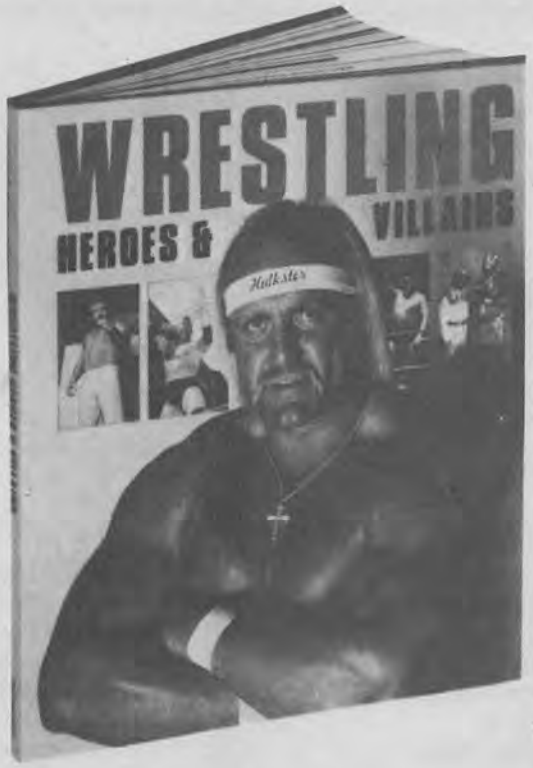

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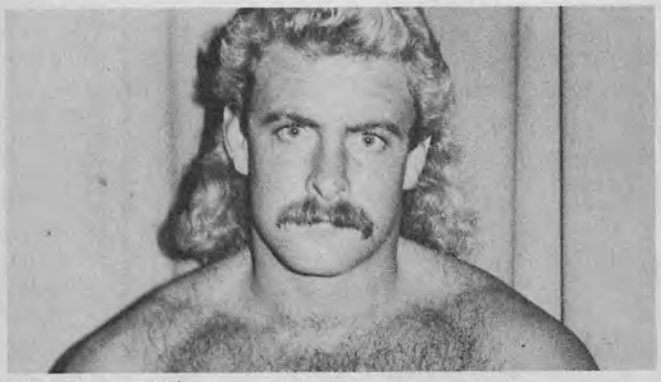

Magnum TA

Roddy Piper

MOST POPULAR

1. **Magnum T.A.** 235 lbs. Norfolk, Va.
2. **Rickey Steamboat** 235 lbs. Honolulu, HI.
3. **Dusty Rhodes** 303 lbs. Austin, Texas
4. **Kerry Von Erich** 260 lbs. Denton, Texas
5. **Paul Orndorff** 250 lbs. Brandon, Fl.
6. **Hillbilly Jim** 302 lbs. Mud Lick, Ky.
7. **Kevin Von Erich** 235 lbs. Denton, Texas
8. **Sgt. Slaughter** 265 lbs. Parris Isl, S.C.
9. **Superstar Billy Graham** 265 lbs. Paradise Valley, Arizona
10. **Junkyard Dog** 260 lbs. New Orleans, La.

MOST HATED

1. **Roddy Piper** 230 lbs. Glasgow, Scotland
2. **Tully Blanchard** 235 lbs. San Antonio, Texas
3. **Keven Sullivan** 230 lbs. Boston, Mass.
4. **King Kong Bundy** 450 lbs. Atlantic City, N.J.
5. **Abdullah the Butcher** 395 lbs. Sudan
6. **Chris Adams** 235 lbs. Stratford-on-Avon, England
7. **John Studd** 365 lbs. Los Angeles, CA
8. **Jimmy Garvin** 235 lbs. Tampa, Florida
9. **Ted DiBiase** 245 lbs. Omaha, Neb.
10. **Bob Orton** 235 lbs. St. Louis, Missouri

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TAG TEAM	COMBINED WEIGHT
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2. Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake	485 lbs.
3. Steve Regal and Jimmy Garvin	560 lbs.
4. Rock-n-Roll Express (Morton and Gibson)	560 lbs.
5. The Road Warriors	525 lbs.
6. Fabulous Freebirds	480 lbs.
7. British Bulldogs	475 lbs.
8. Midnight Express (Eaton and Conrey)	525 lbs.
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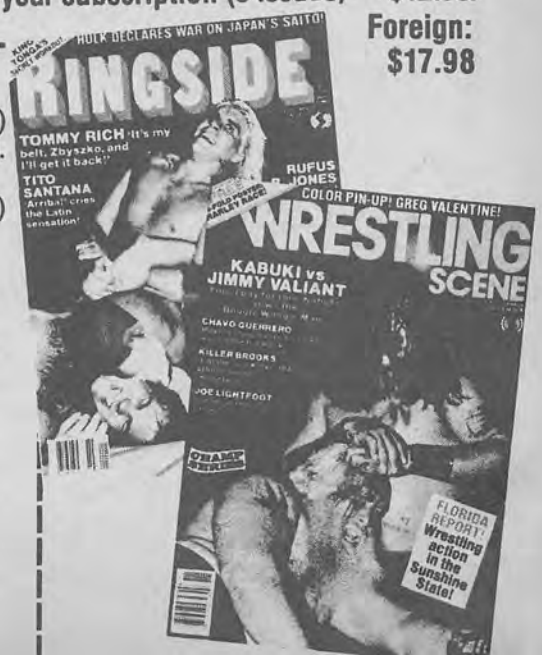

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Hulk Hogan

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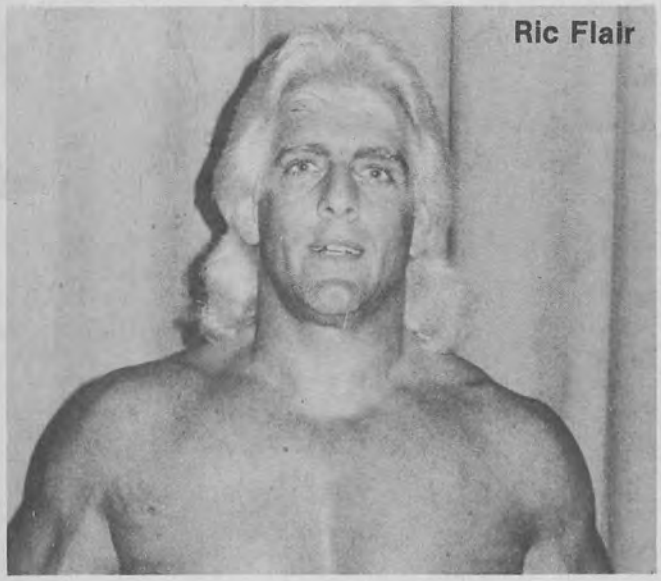

Ric Flair

Carlos Colon

TOP 20

1. **Tully Blanchard** 235 lbs. San Antonio, Texas
2. **Dusty Rhodes** 303 lbs. Austin, Texas
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5. **Kerry Von Erich** 235 lbs. Denton, Texas
6. **Randy Savage** 240 lbs. Lexington, Ky.
7. **Dick Murdock** 265 lbs. Waxahachie, Texas
8. **Stan Hansen** 270 lbs. Borger, Texas
9. **Ricky Steamboat 235 lbs. Honolulu, HI.**
10. **Sgt. Slaugter** 265 lbs. Parris Island, S.C.
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12. **Butch Reed** 265 lbs. Kansas City, Mo.
13. **Nick Bockwinkel** 235 lbs. Beverly Hills, Ca.
14. **Wahoo McDaniel** 265 lbs. Midland, Texas
15. **Terry Taylor** 225 lbs. Vero Beach, Ca.
16. **Magnificent Muraco** 265 lbs. Hawaii
17. **Chris Adams** 235 lbs. Stratford-on-Avon, England
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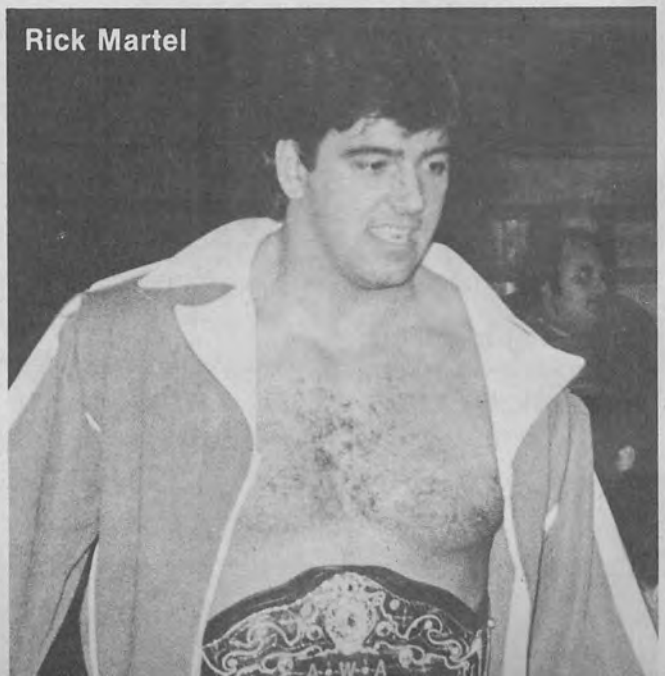
20. **Iceman Parsons** 240 lbs. Dallas, Texas



Rick Martel

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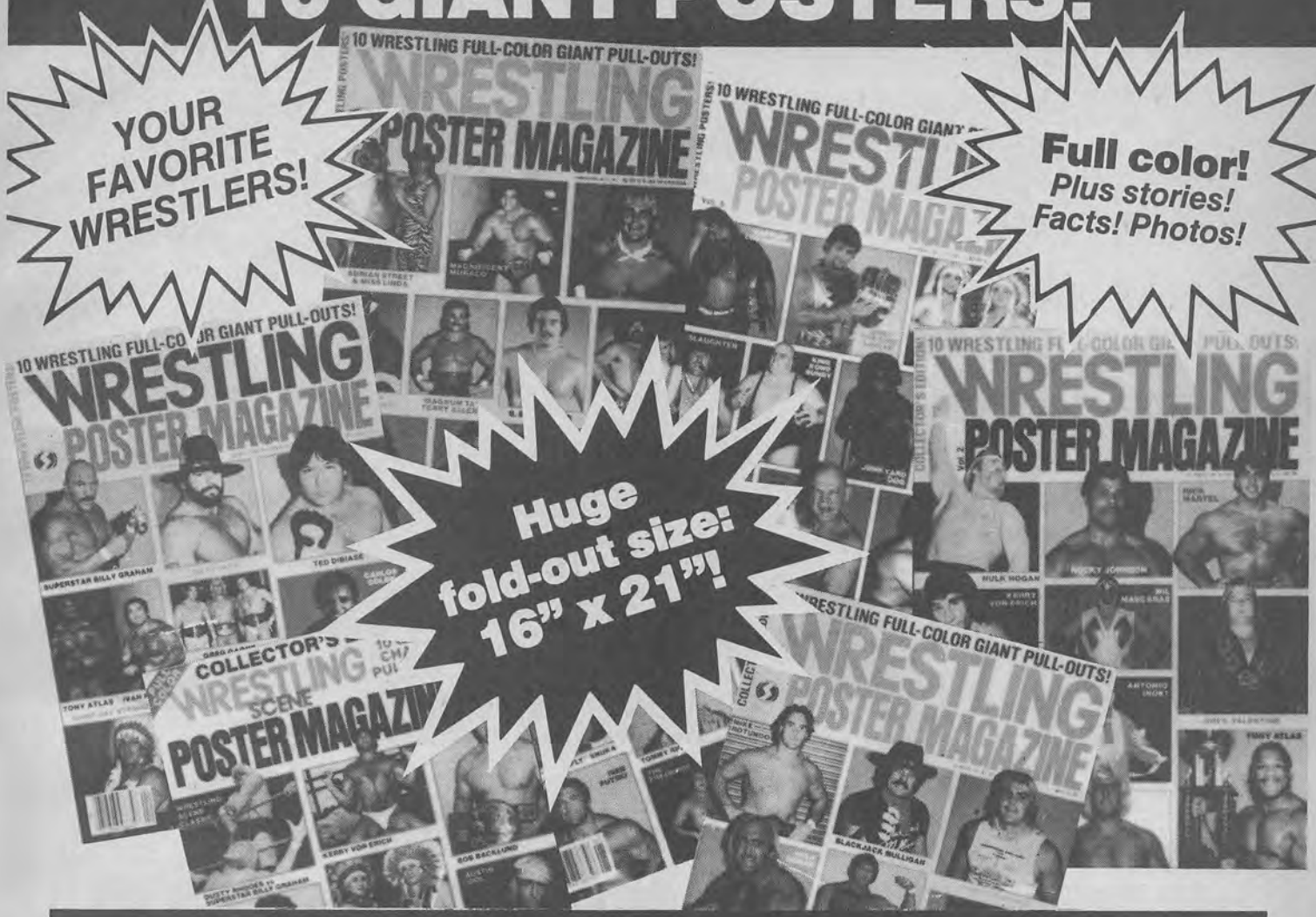

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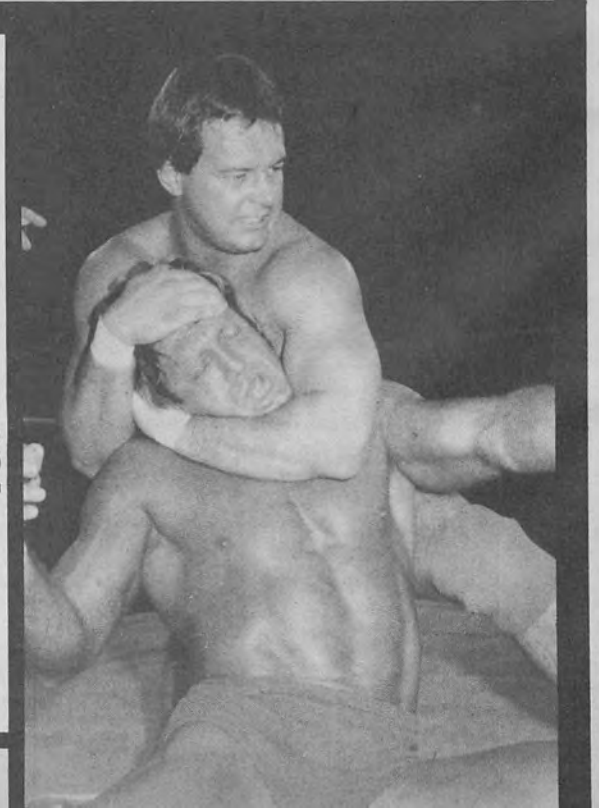


By JOHN O'SHAUNNESY

It all started on March 31, 1985 on the big Wrestlemania Extravaganza. In the main event, Hulk Hogan and Mr. T. battled "Rowdy" Roddy Piper and Mr. Wonderful, Paul Orndorff. By now everyone knows what happened on that night but the repercussions from the big battle are still being felt today. In the closing seconds of the battle Roddy Piper left the ring leaving "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff to fend for himself against Hulk Hogan and Mr. T. After Orndorff was pinned and Mr. T. and Hulk Hogan declared the winners, Roddy Piper went berserk. He blamed Orndorff for the embarassing loss and then tagged him with the nickname "Mr. Blunderful" for botching up the match.

It didn't take too long before this animosity on the part of Piper and Orndorff escalated into a full scale war. It was during this time that Orndorff fired Bobby "The Brain" Heenan and declared himself a free man.

The fans who were skeptical at first over Orndorff's "Change of heart" soon made a complete reversal and began to wildly cheer Mr. Wonderful. The fans were fully convinced that Orndorff had changed after Mr. Wonderful jumped into the ring to save Hulk Hogan as he was being attacked by both Roddy Piper and "Ace" Orton.

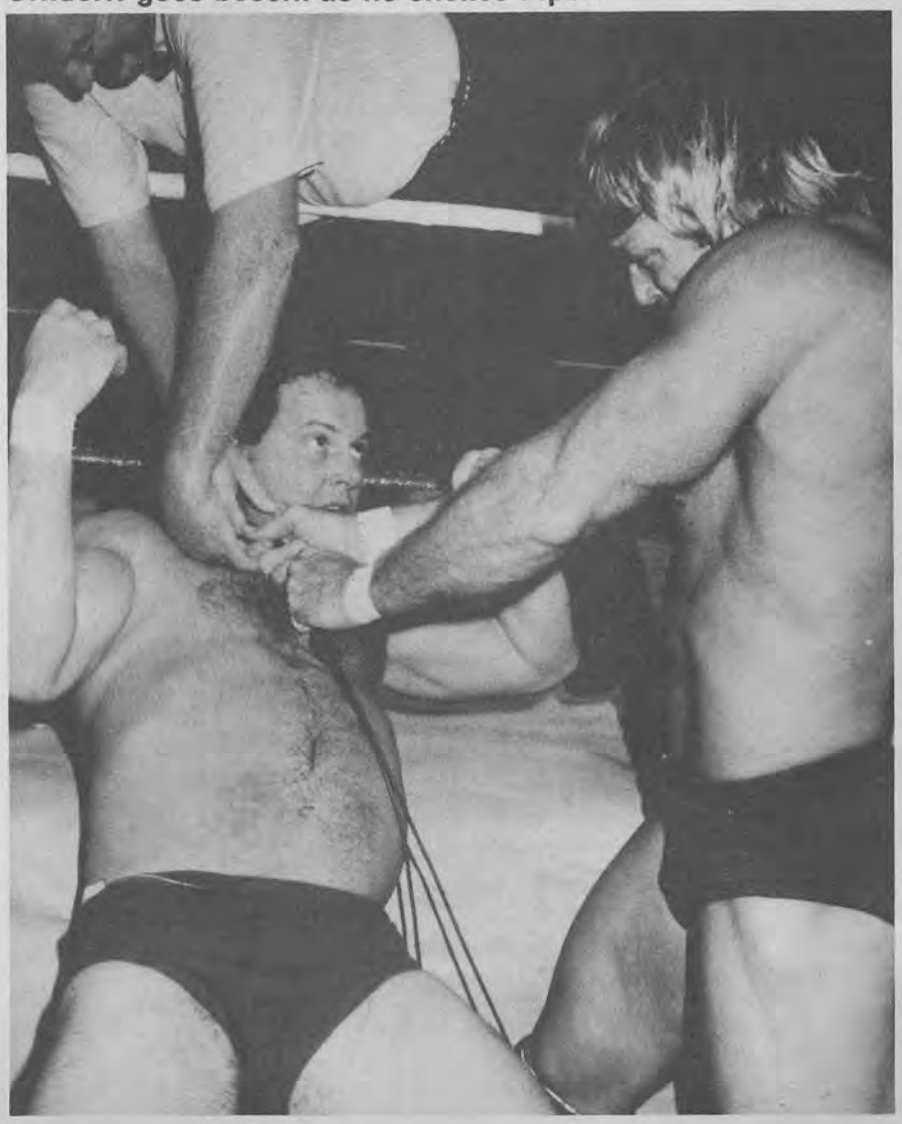
With Orndorff now a full-fledged good guy, he felt he had to save face and defeat Roddy Piper. "I didn't know what I was getting myself into when I agreed to be Piper's partner," Orndorff told a group of reporters. "The man talks a good game but when the heat is on, he backs away like a scared rat. He claims to be big and bad, a real tough dude but why then does he need someone by his side to watch his back? If I could only get him in a one-on-one situation, I'll prove to the world that the guy's a born loser."

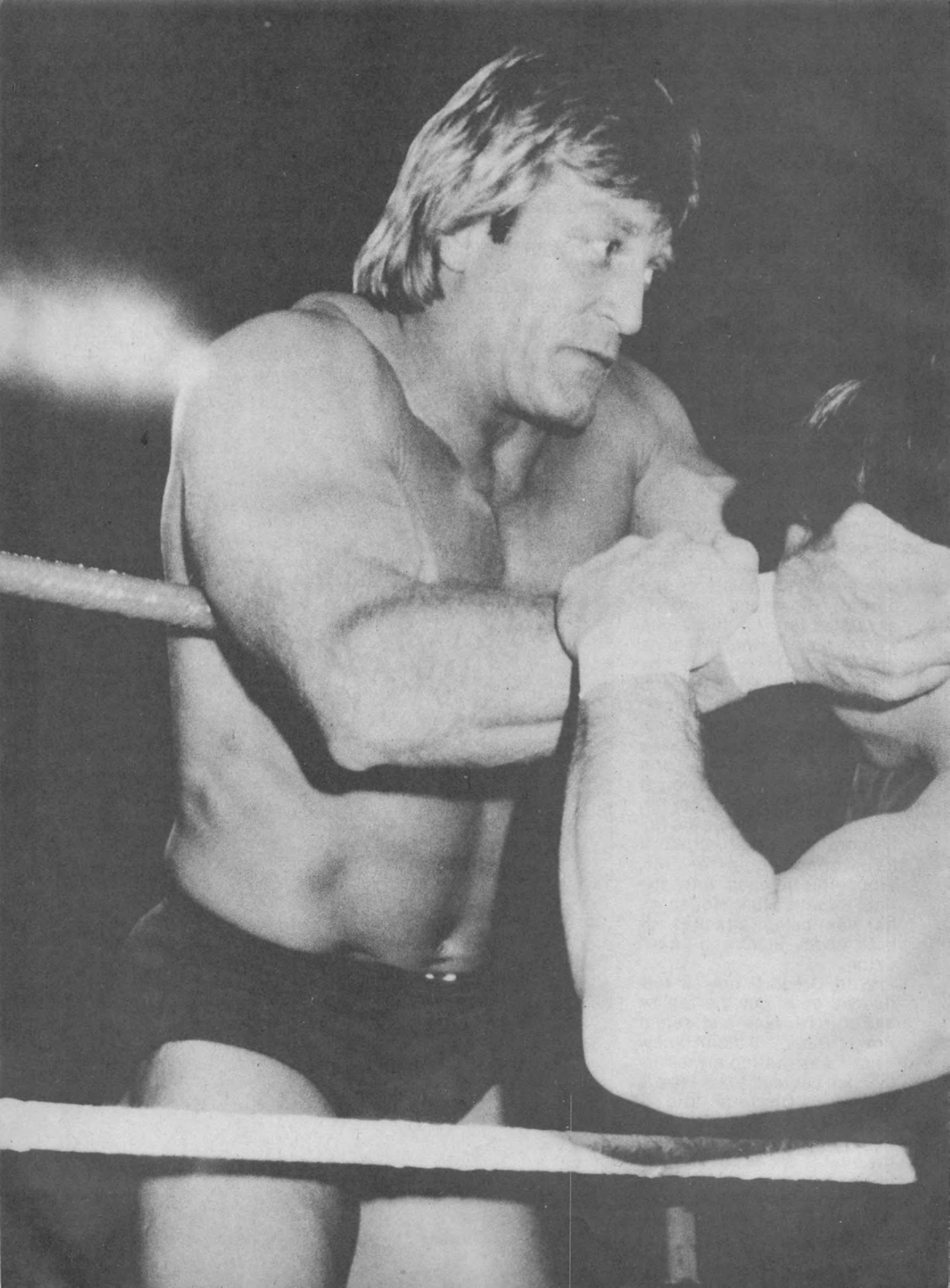
In Piper's defense, Mr. Wonderful has since faced the "Rowdy One" in a one-on-one situation on several occasions, but as of now, both men are still around to talk about the outcome.

The wildest brawl between the two arch enemies occured during a segment of *Saturday Night's Main Event.* The bout had to be the toughest, most action-packed match ever broadcast on

Orndorff chokes Piper with the microphone cord on the outside of the ring.

Orndorff goes beserk as he chokes Piper.





Orndorff grabs Piper by the ear.

television. Both men started out warily but it didn't take long before the two were slugging it out like two madmen.

Piper and Orndorff eventually wound up on the outside of the ring where they continued to pound each other senseless. It was obvious by the looks on their faces that nothing was going to tear these two wild men apart. They fought on the ropes, on the ring steps and even under the ring! Never once did either give an inch or take a quarter.

Soon, they moved up the runway leading to the dressing rooms with their hands still clapsed tightly around each other's throats. The intensity between the two was so strong that no one even tried to come between them. The T.V. crew, meanwhile, followed the men all the way into the corridor leading to their private dressing rooms, filming the action as the two wrestlers bounced off the walls like a pinball ricocheting off the side of a pinball machine. Finally, Piper reached the dressing room door and when he did, someone pulled him in, saving him from Orndorff's grasp. Mr. Wonderful, though pounded on the door like a man possessed, waiting desperately for Piper to answer the knock so that they could resume their war. But, wisely, the Scotsman never answered. Thus another confrontation ended indecisively.

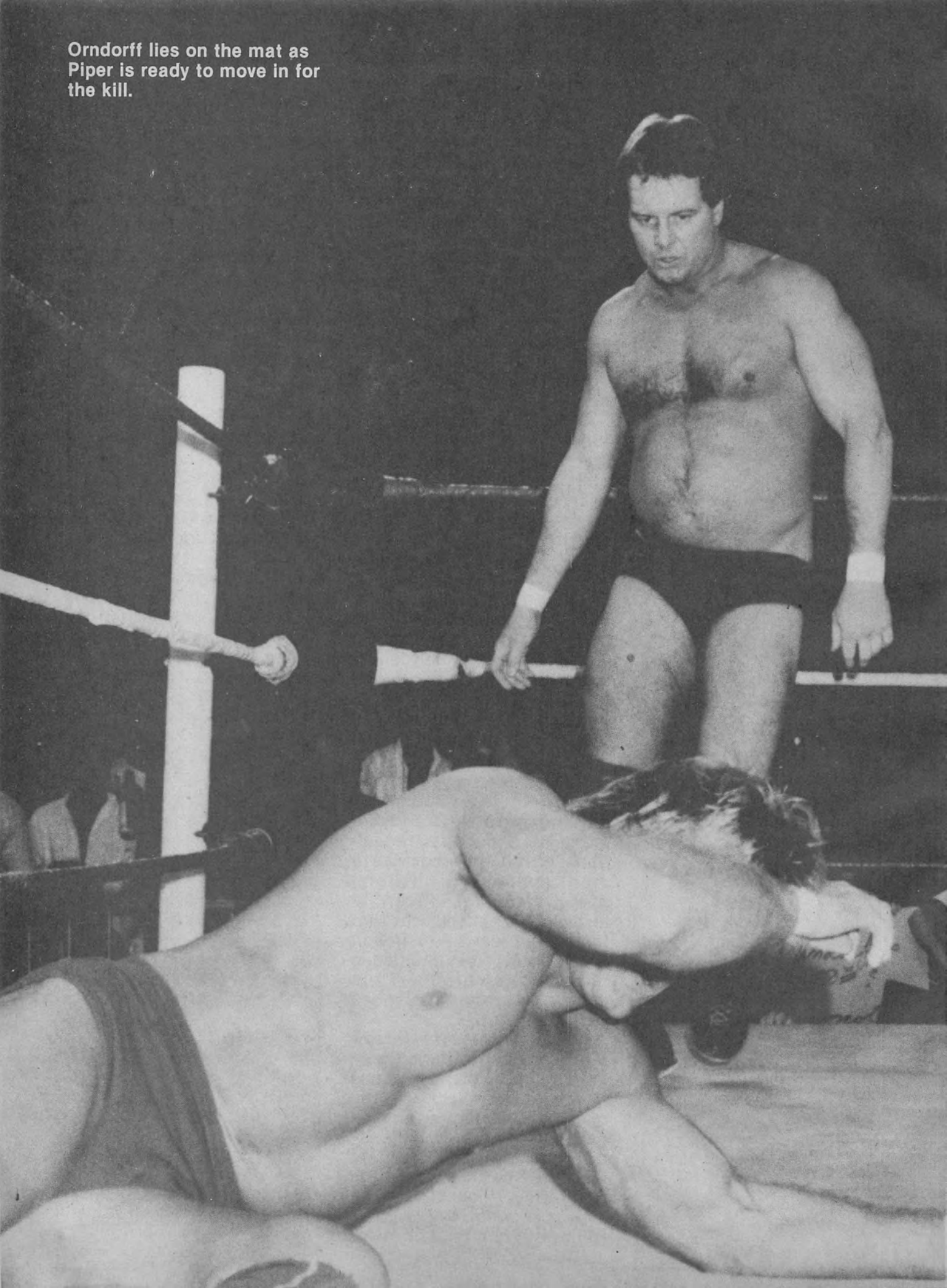
Roddy Piper, however, saw it in an entirely different way. In his inimitable, sing-song style Piper quipped, "The man is running scared. I psyched him out completely and now he can't sleep at nights. All he thinks about is Piper this, Piper that. The man is a goner. We're going to have to commit him to an

Mr. Wonderful is about to pin Piper's shoulders to the mat.

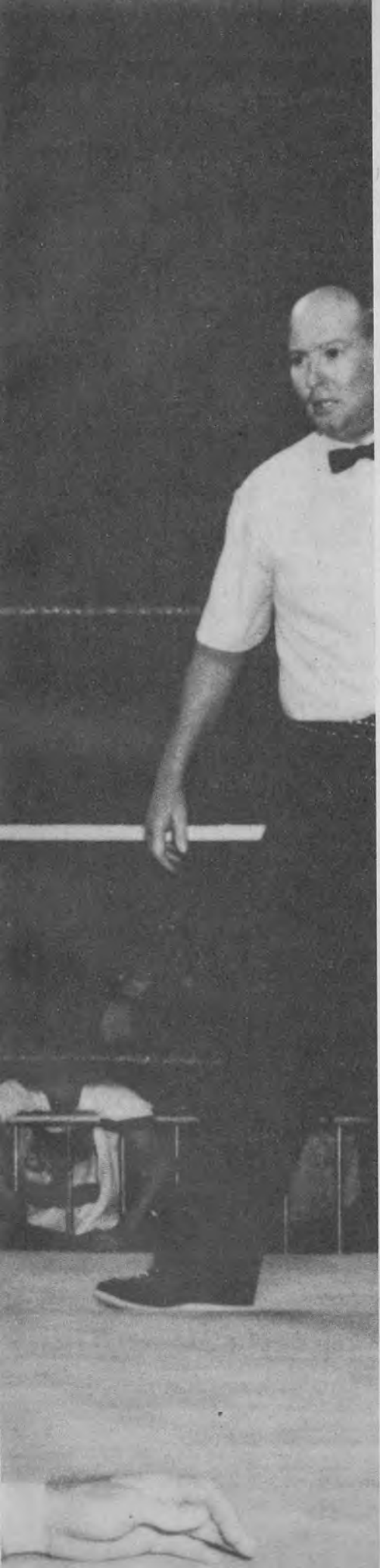
institution to save his sanity but I think he's too far gone. Right Ace?" The big cowboy who is never too far from his main man smiled his silly grin and just nodded in agreement to whatever Piper said.

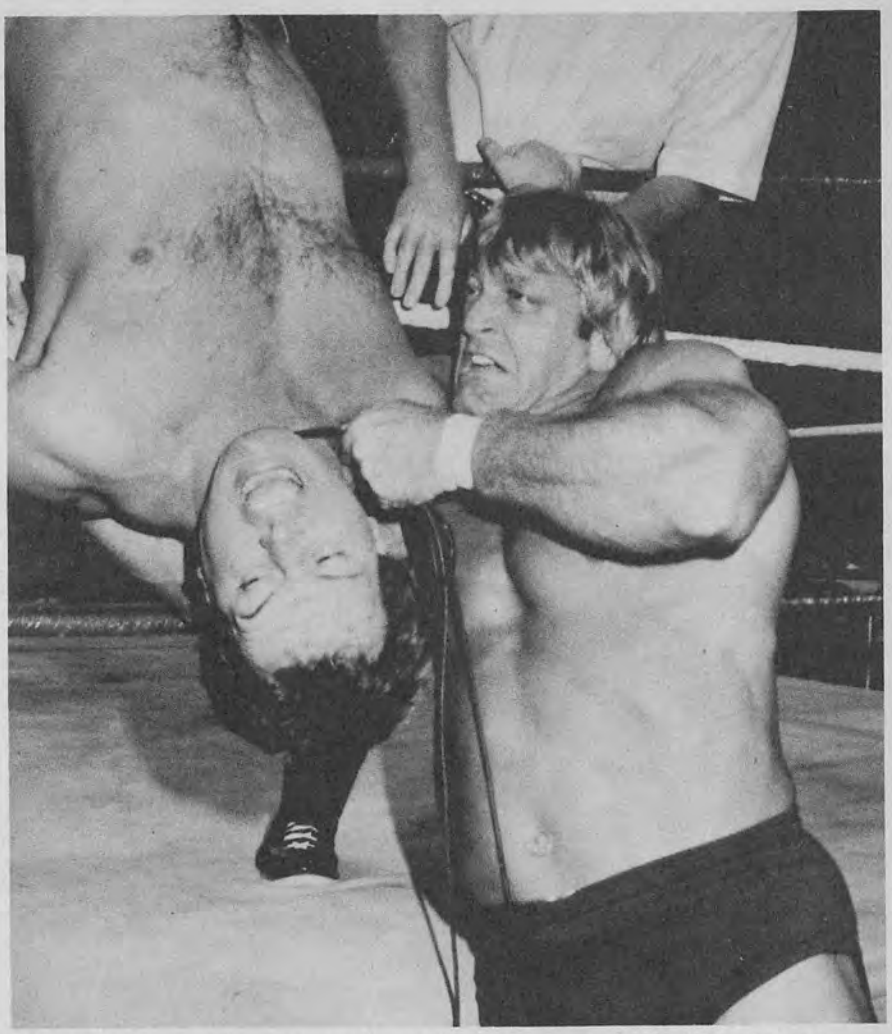
Right now, it appears that there is no end to their never ending saga. In fact, another chapter was unfurled on the night of the wrestling classic

Piper knocks Orndorff to his knees.



Orndorff lies on the mat as Piper is ready to move in for the kill.





Orndorff has Piper hanging from the ropes upside down.

from the Rosemont Horizon in Chicago, Illinois. As Hulk Hogan battled Roddy Piper, Paul Orndorff waited in the wings anxiously watching the action. Orndorff knew that Ace Orton was doing the same on the other side of the arena. The moment the Hulk had Piper in trouble, Ace jumped into the ring to save his man. Orton and Piper managed to kick Hogan a couple of times but then Mr. Wonderful ran to the ring. Orndorff immediately hurled Ace clear out of the ring and then Orndorff and the Hulk did the same to Piper.

After the Hulk returned his championship belt, he patted Mr. Wonderful on the back and the two heroes put on a muscle posing demonstration. After flexing their triceps, the two heroes left the ring together under a long and loud ovation. In their dressing room, immediately following the bout, Orndorff and Hogan pledged to watch each other's backs whenever Piper was around and vowed to work together to rid the sport of "Rowdy" Roddy Piper.

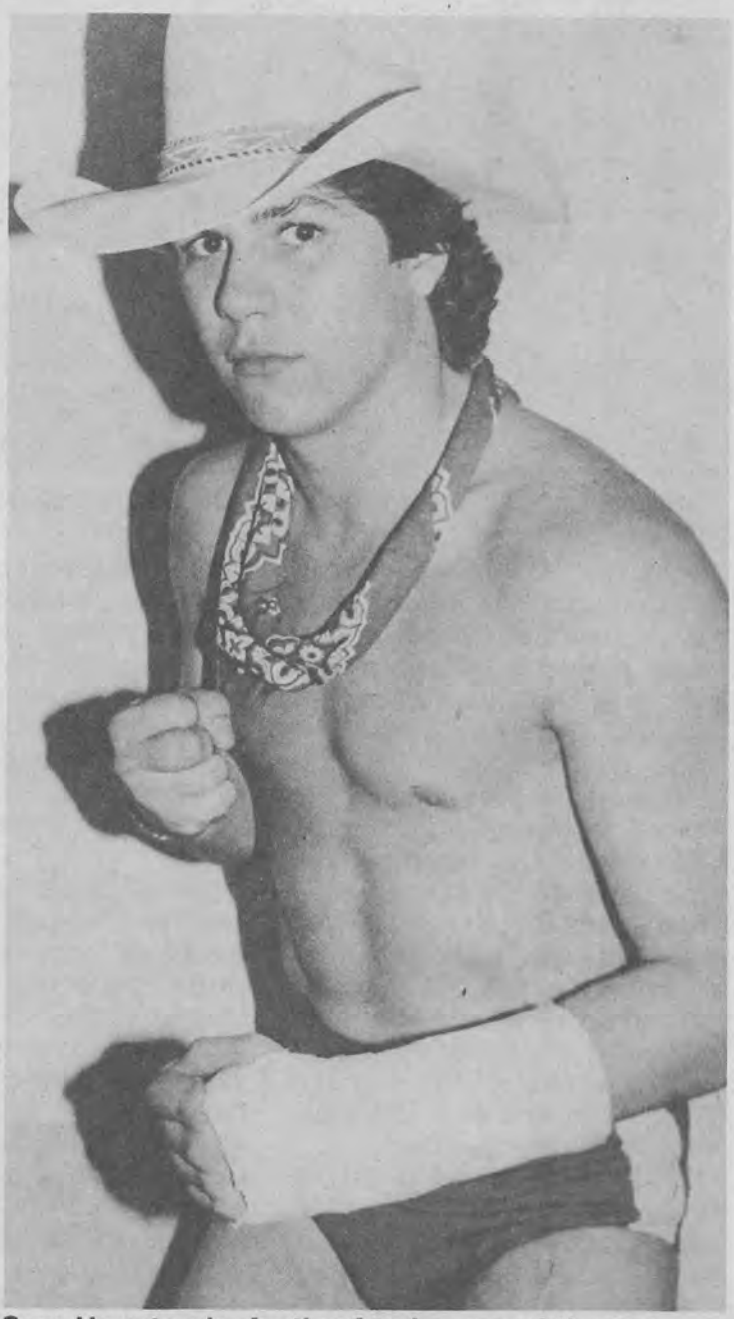
As tough as Paul Orndorff and Hulk Hogan are, it's still going to take an army of Hulks and Orndorffs to put an end to Roddy Piper and his irascible ways. It's nearly a year since Orndorff and Piper have been at odds and their feud is still no closer to completion than it was when it first began. In fact, one is led to believe that these two mortal enemies will be fighting against each other until they're old and gray.

*

SAM HOUSTON

Why's Everybody Out To Get The New Kid?

By PHYLLIS PUCKETT



Sam Houston is destined to be one of the top stars in the sport.

Only twenty years old, well over six-foot and sporting a lanky frame not yet developed to its muscular capabilities, Michael "Sam" Houston would not appear to be a threat to most seasoned ring veterans. So why do some of these men of expertise feel it necessary to bushwack him in parking lots and attempt to injure him to a degree that would halt his newly budding career before it gets a chance to blossom?

Maybe Sam is showing too many signs of claiming his own in their sport. He is definitely a man who is seriously training both body and mind for a career which will confine itself to a four-post, three-rope mat enclosure. Or rather is supposed to be confined to this restricted space. Sam, however, has already been shown that if you threaten the boundaries of some of wrestling's so-called champions that you're fair game no matter the odds or the arena.

Sam Houston was a noted competitor among the amateur ranks in his home town of Waco, Texas. His accomplishments were impressive enough to have drawn the attention of Dusty Rhodes. With encouragement from "The American

Dream," he anxiously looked forward to making professional wrestling his career.

That first step was only some two years ago, and since then his friendship and training with The Dream and "Magnum TA" Terry Allen have made his spotlight brighter. That spotlight has not only drawn the attention of promoters and fans but has also singled him out to the likes of Andersons and Tully Blanchard, noted enemies of both TA and Rhodes.Not an envied position for Sam in this respect.

During a match with Tully, Sam's head was battered until it required some 26 stitches to close. But even this was only the beginning of what was planned for the new associate of "America's Team," Rhodes and TA.

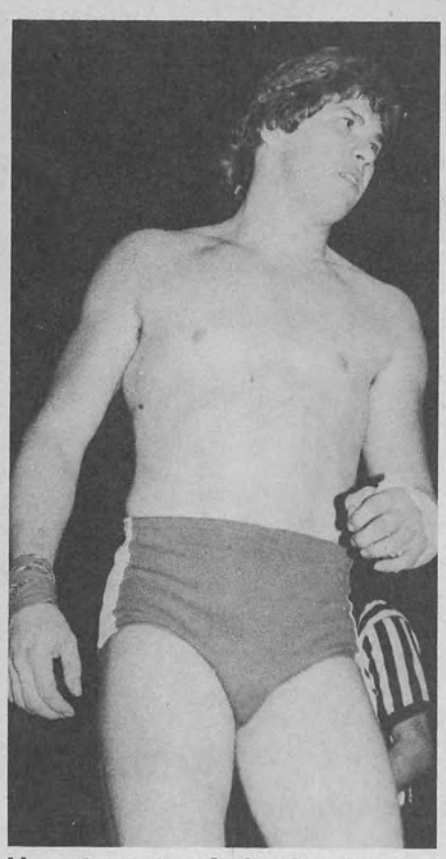
A solid right by Houston sends Ole sprawling.

Given the opportunity to heal, he again took his place alongside the men who had taught and encouraged him. Once again, blows were struck at him and signed as a message for his friends from Blanchard and the Andersons.

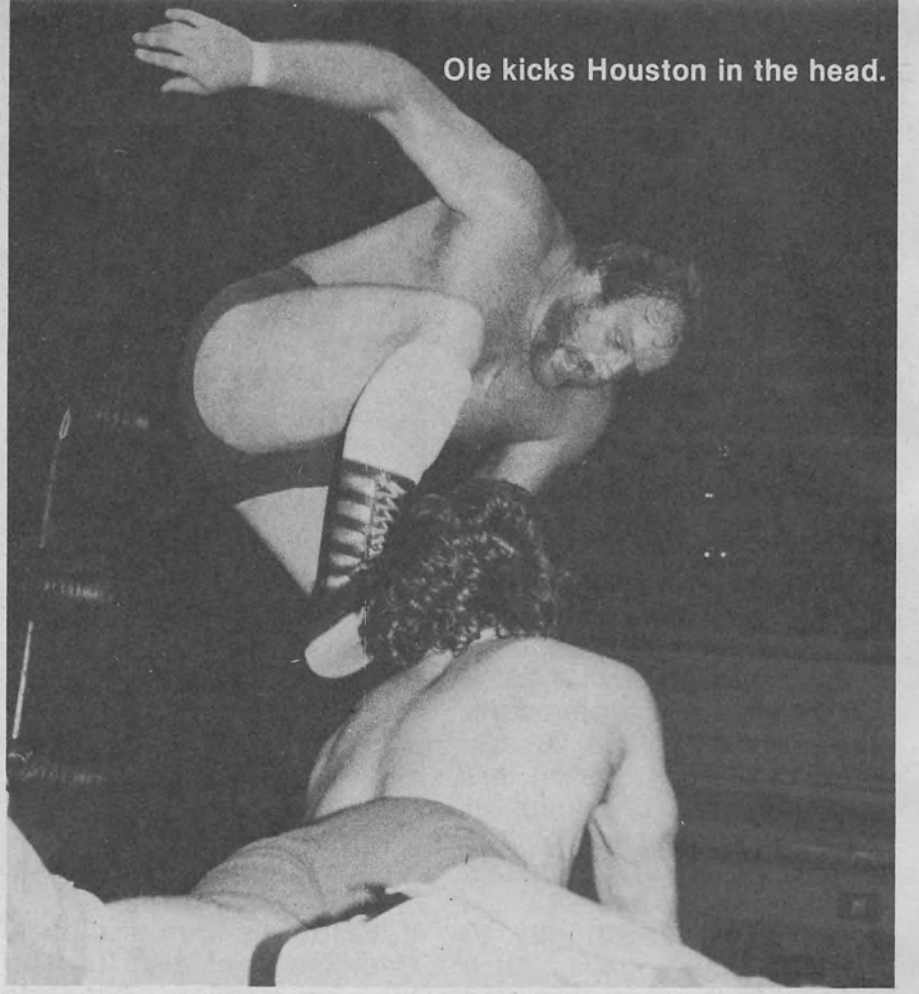
The message,as they called it,was in the form of a badly fractured wrist dealt to Sam in a six man tag. Once his partners in that match, Ron Garvin and Eagle, had been disposed of on the floor outside the ring, Baby Doll lent her invaluable assistance by slipping something to Ole. With the questionable object concealed in his knee pad, and partners Arn and Tully holding Houston in position, he landed full force on Sam's outstreched arm.

His has not been an enjoyable introduction to wrestling, but it is one he refuses to back down from and insists on meeting head-

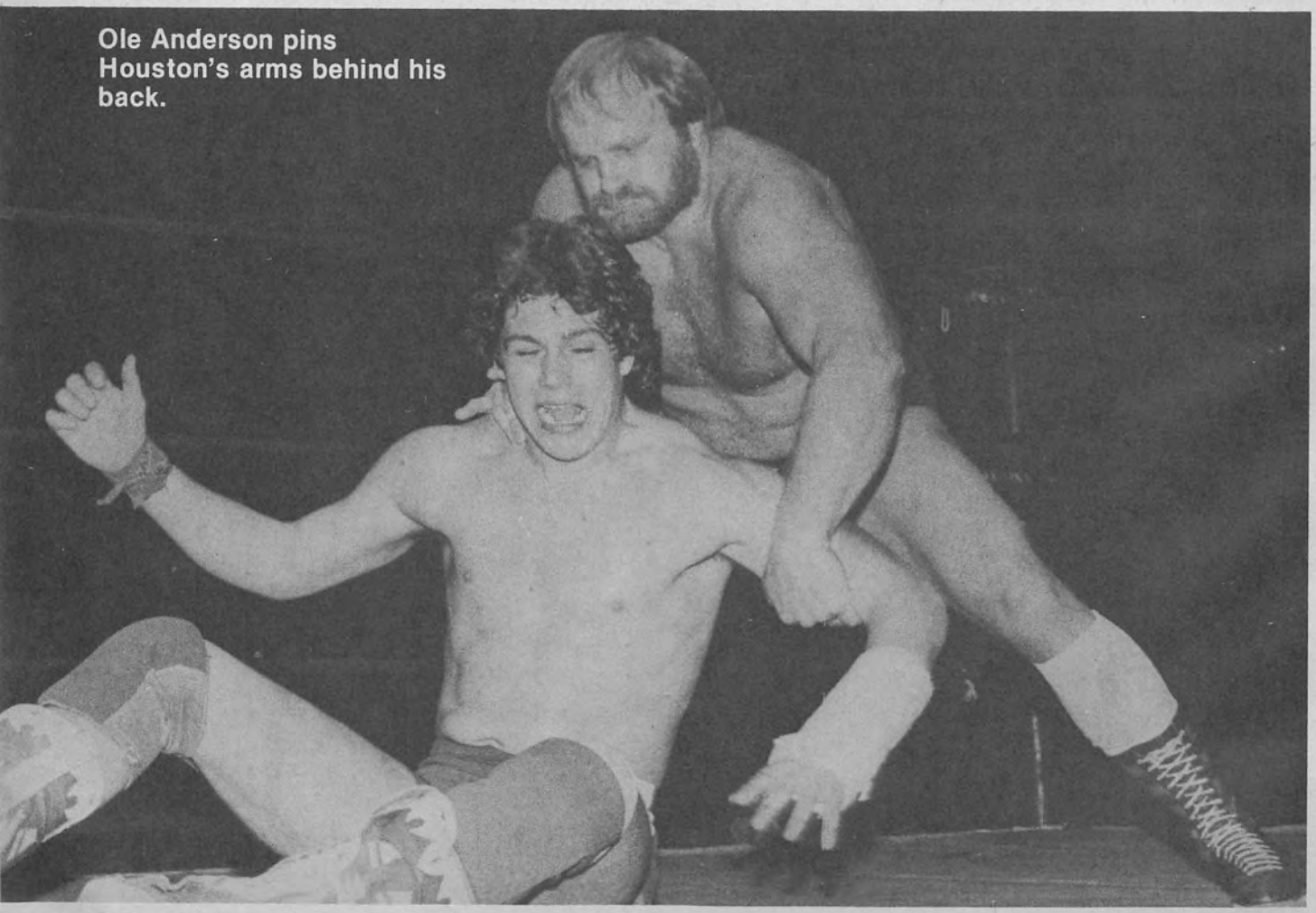
Houston drop kicks Ole Anderson.



Houston stands in the ring ready for action.



Ole kicks Houston in the head.



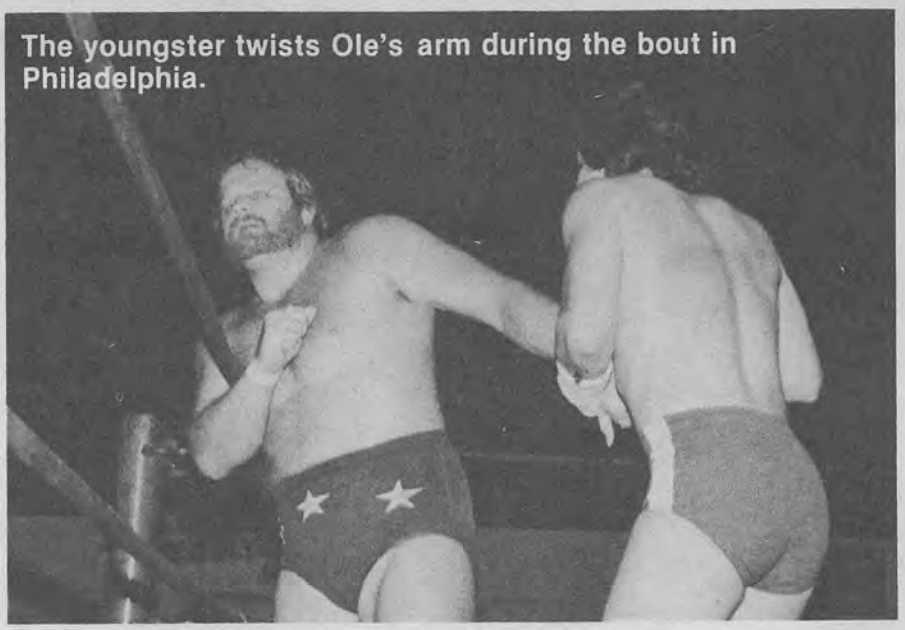
Ole Anderson pins Houston's arms behind his back.

on. Settling one-third of the scores due him was his intention when he stepped back into the ring against Arn Anderson. Still wearing a cast, the going wasn't easy. Especially against one of a pair of men who pride themselves as "bone busters." But this time the advantage was Sam's. As Arn began to viciously whack and tear at the cast, TA stepped up to demand the referee stop Arn or disqualify him. As Arn made a grab for Magnum, Sam made good on the mistake. He latched onto Arn, rolling him back and over for the win.

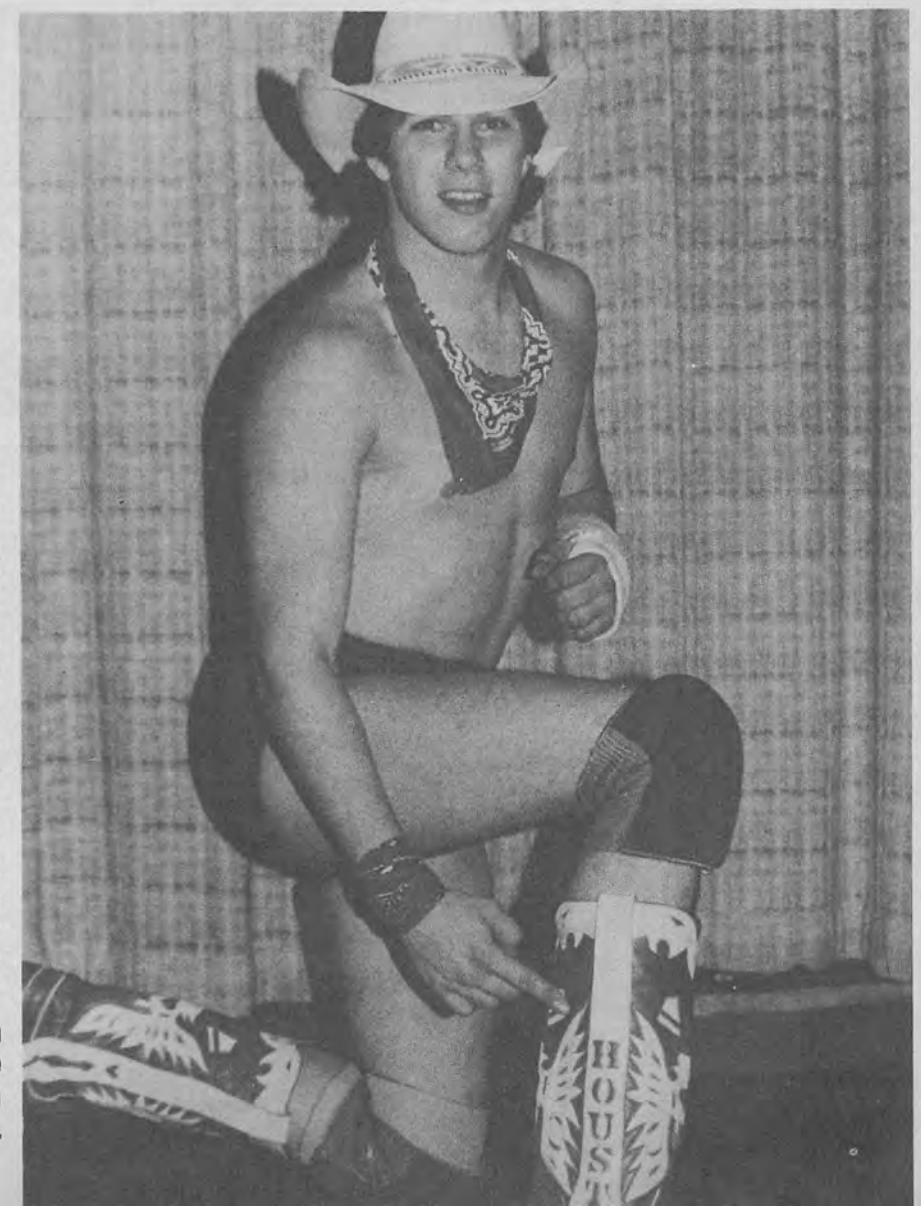
The victory served to restore a good deal of the confidence and pride that Arn and his cohorts had been so diligently trying to beat out of Houston. To Arn and company, it only meant he must be due for another "lesson in humility" from his superiors. As he left a TV studio after taping an interview, he was jumped and bloodied once more. With no witnesses present and the attack dealt from behind, the only indentification of his assailants is in Sam's own mind. And he's sure beyond doubt that he now has one more mark to collect from Ole, Arn and Tully.

Sam is a determined and headstrong young man. If he can make it through the obstacles which have set themselves solidly in his path, he will certainly have paid his dues for a place in professional wrestling. His trials within these first few years should gain him the experience it takes others twice as long to attain. That's not to say any of these others would trade the circumstances of Sam's knowledge, or even survive it, but so far Houston has kept coming back, and that's the stuff champions are made of.

Good Luck Sam! We'll surely be hearing more from this up and coming young man. ★



The youngster twists Ole's arm during the bout in Philadelphia.



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RINGSIDE REPORT

Chicago, Illinois Rosemont Horizon WWF CLASSIC

First Round:

Adrian Adonis pinned Corporal Kerschner.

Dynamite Kid pinned Nikolai Volkoff.

Randy Savage pinned Ivan Putski.

Ricky Steamboat was awarded the victory in his bout against Davey Boy Smith.

The Junkyard Dog pinned the Iron Sheik.

Moondog Spot won by countout over Terry Funk.

Tito Santana pinned Magnificent Muraco.

Paul Orndorff won by D.Q. over Ace Orton.

Quarter Finals:

Dynamite Kid pinned Adrian Adonis.

Randy Savage pinned Ricky Steamboat.

The Junkyard Dog pinned Moondog Spot.

Tito Santana and Paul Orndorff both counted out of the ring.

Semi-Finals:

Randy Savage pinned Dynamite Kid.

J.Y.D. drew a bye (as Santana and Orndorff were both counted out).

Finals:

The Junkyard Dog pinned Randy Savage.

Main Event:

Hulk Hogan defeated Roddy Piper by disqualification when Ace Orton interfered on Piper's behalf.

Report submitted by Howard K. McMannuss

Ms. Elizabeth & Randy Savage

Cleveland, Ohio Cleveland Convention Center

Pistol Pez Whatley lost to Krusher Khruschev.

Jerry "The King" Lawler won over Tony Vaccaro.

Arn and Ole Anderson successfully defended their National Tag Team championship against the challenge of Jimmy "Boogie Woogie Man" Valiant and Sam Houston.

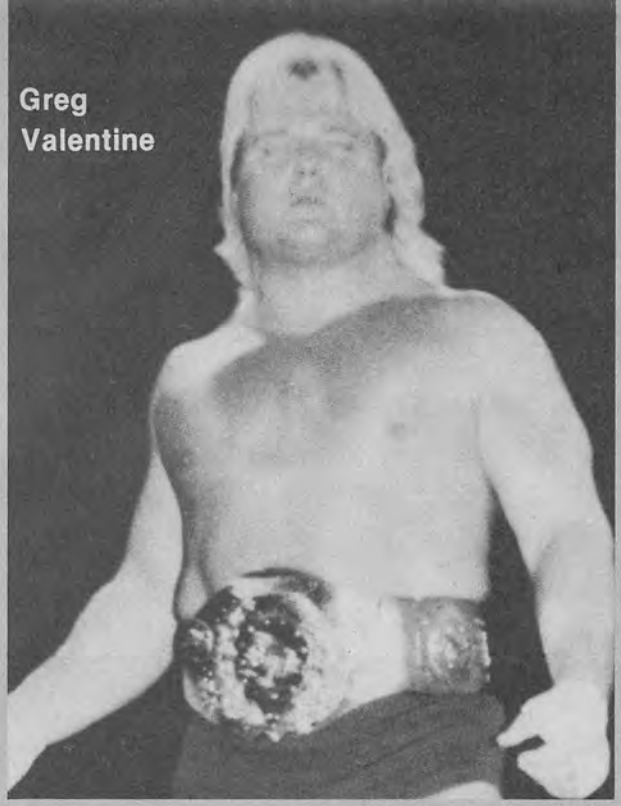
Tully Blanchard defeated Ronnie Garvin in a U.S. Heavyweight bout.

The Rock & Roll Express defeated Ivan and Nikita Koloff in a non-title match.

"Nature Boy" Ric Flair (with Arn Anderson in his corner) defeated Magnum T.A. (with Dusty Rhodes in his corner).

Report submitted by Patricia Banks.

R & R Express


Greg Valentine

East Rutherford, N.J. Meadowlands, Arena

In the WWF Tag Team title match, champions Greg "The Hammer" Valentine and Brutus Beefcake defeated Mike Rotundo and Dan Spivey.

In the Intercontinental title match, Adrian Adonis defeated champ Tito Santana by a count out.

Cowboy Bob Orton pinned The Junkyard Dog.

Jesse "The Body" Ventura vs. Uncle Elmer ended in a double count out.

Pedro Morales pinned Tiger Chung Lee.

King Tonga pinned Rene Goulet.

Steve Lombardi and Jose Luis Rivera wrestled to a draw.

Iron Mike Sharpe pinned S.D. Jones.

Leaping Lanny Poffo pinned Terry Gibbs.

Report submitted by Y. Gedalowirz

Long Island N.Y. Ward Melville H.S.

Rock & Roll Express defeated Ivan Koloff and Krusher Kruschev.

Rick Martel pinned Nick Bockwinkel.

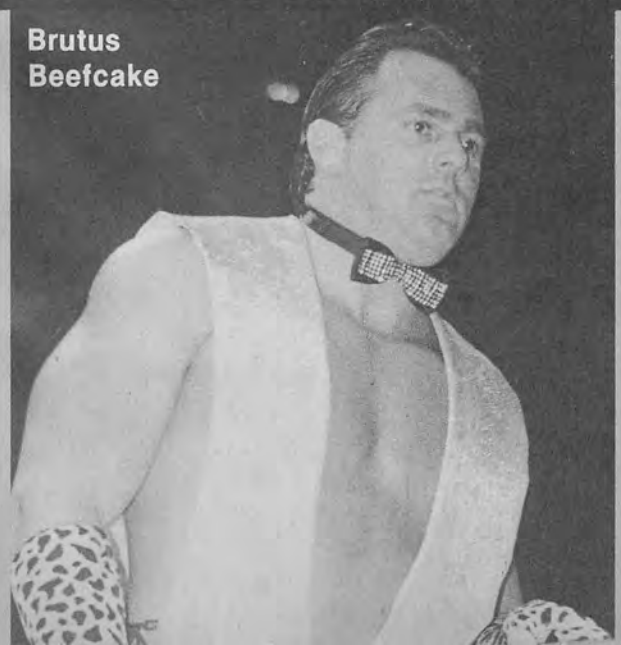
Superstar Billy Graham pinned the Barbarian.

Johnny Rodz pinned Gypsy Rodriquez.

Buddy Roberts and Curt Hennig battled to a 20 minute draw.

Report submitted by John Arezzi

Rick Martel vs Nick Bockwinkel


Brutus Beefcake

Boston, MA. Boston Gardens

Corporal Kerschner pinned Rene Goulet.

Brett Hart pinned Lanny Poffo.

Jim Neidhart defeated Tony Garea.

Randy Savage won by countout over Tony Atlas.

Bob Orton pinned Pedro Morales.

Magnificent Muraco won by D.Q. over Ricky Steamboat.

Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine defeated Mike Rotundo and Don Spivey.

The Junkyard Dog won over Terry Funk.

Report submitted by Dave Doyle.

LONG RIDERS: "We'll Beat Up THE ROAD WARRIORS Again!"

By MIKE ALLEN

Bikers. the mere mention of that word evokes images of bearded, leather-clad behemoths on Harley-Davidsons looking for trouble. Instilling fear in the hearts of law-abiding citizens everywhere, these mobile, back alley brawlers cruise America's back roads in search of beer, good times and fights to soothe their sprit of adventure.

The most feared biker activity is a good, old-fashioned, knock-down, drag-out rumble where rival gangs meet to battle it out in order to prove superiority over one another. Like any fight to the finish, the only rule in a biker rumble is that of survival. Anything goes in these savage encounters including whips, straps, chains, crowbars and anything else that can be used to beat another's face into a bloody pulp.

For the past three years, the Road Warriors have dominated wrestling as the paradigms of street gang biker types with their rugged builds, leather accessories

The Irwins are about to double team Animal.

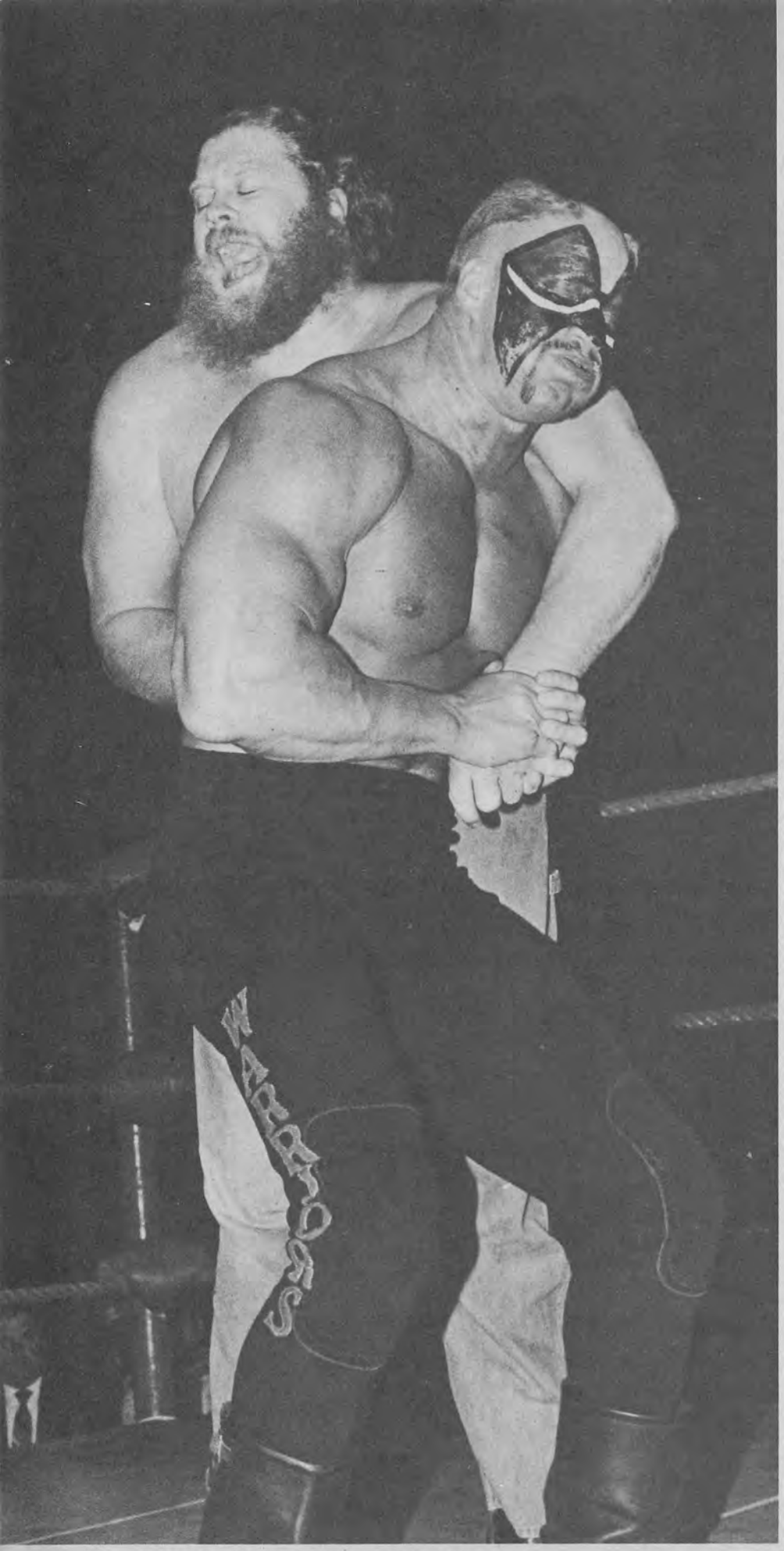
and biker boots. Add to this their razor cuts and face paints and you have a new wave twist to the more conventional image of a biker. Their love for rumbles dates back to their youth on the streets of Chicago where they would take on entire gangs by themselves as they ruled the Windy City with their dreaded clothesline and precision teamwork.

Recently, another rival biker gang has burst upon the scene in Pro Wrestling USA to challenge the Warriors not only for their AWA World Tag Team belts but also for superiority in the toughness department. This new team consists of brothers "Wild" Bill and Scott "Hog" Irwin better known to most people as the Long Riders. Hailing from Duluth, Minnesota, the Irwins are excellent wrestlers, having graduated from Verne Gagne's wrestling camp a few years ago after successful amateur careers. This awesome duo has also held many tag team titles including the World Class Tag Team titles and the prestigious National Tag Team Championship which they lost earlier this year.

Ever since the Irwins cruised into the AWA on their massive Harleys they have been the objects of controversy due to their no-nonsense approach to wrestling in their streetclothes. Instead of opting for trunks and padded boots, the Long Riders prefer to get off of their cycles and climb into the ring wearing faded jeans, leather belts and their long rider coats which date back to the old west when cowboys wore them for protection as they rode across the plains in all types of weather. The only difference in their ring attire centers around their footware as Bill wears cowboy boots with leather leg warmers while Scott favors steel toed work shoes (better known as waffle stompers).

After literally running over every team they opposed, the Irwins decided to challenge the champions since they figured that the Warriors are the only team around who could give them a good fight. The match-up between the toughest teams in the sport looked even as Bill and Hawk are both around 280 pounds while Scott and Animal each weigh in excess of 290 pounds. Both teams are extremely rough, preferring to circumvent the rules and rely on brute strength and brawn instead of wrestling holds.

The first match between the two teams took place in the St. Paul Civic Center in late summer as the Irwins gave the Warriors all they could handle and more, attacking the champs as they



Hog pounds Hawk in the midsection.

entered the ring before any introductions could take place. This blitzkrieg caught the Warriors off guard as they suddenly found themselves in a fight for their lives as well as their belts. After a couple of minutes of fighting toe to toe, the Warriors managed to hurl both brothers out of the ring and remove their ring gear before once again fighting off the crazed brothers.

The matched see-sawed back and forth until the Warriors emerged victorious, but only after Hawk gouged Scott's eyes, enabling Animal to register a pin over the temporarily blinded biker. Seeing this, Bill charged into the ring and continued the battle with both Warriors as Scott regained his senses and joined in soon after.

Although the match was over, it was evident that these two teams must meet again to settle their differences. Scott Irwin may have said it best when he addressed the champs saying, "We beat you up and you know it, but what did you do? You imitated Precious and gouged my eyes like the chickens you are. Well Road Warriors, get ready because the Long Riders are after you. When we catch up with you we're going to do what we do best, we're gonna beat you up. We're the only team to take it to you, and we'll do it again. So, watch out."

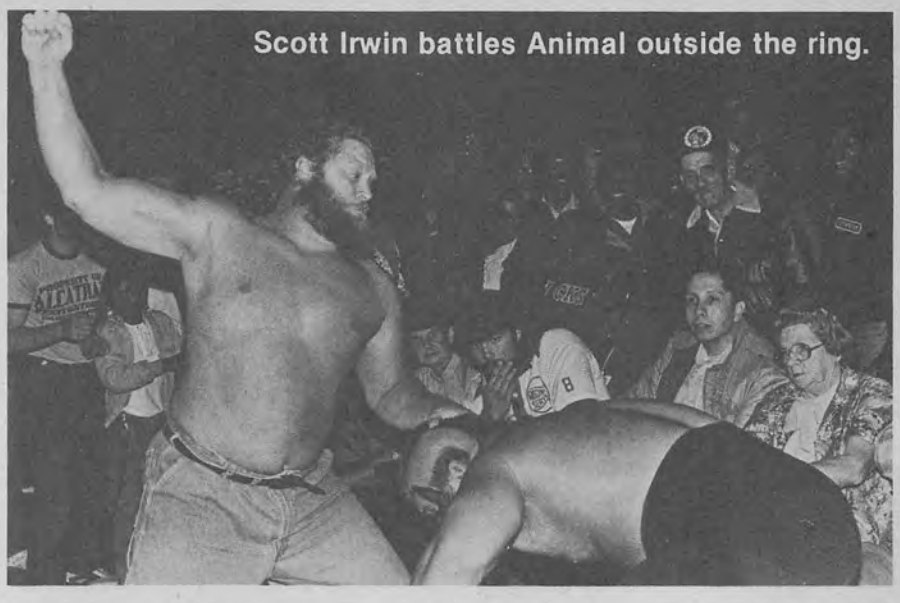
After weeks of negotiating, the rematch was signed for Milwaukee, a fact which pleased Scott Irwin who welcomed the announcement with an ear to ear grin. "Well, well, it's gonna be a great night when my brother and I beat the Road Warriors for the belts in Milwaukee, the home of Harley Davidson. What more fitting place for us to win the world titles?"

"That's right Hog, Road

Warriors, we beat you up once and we'll do it again. Shine up the belts because we want to wear them as we ride away from the arena on our bikes," added Bill Irwin.

From the moment both teams entered the ring, it was pure mayhem as the Long Riders once again attacked the Warriors before any introductions could be made as Bill and Hawk squared off while Scott battered Animal in the opposite corner. This went on for about one minute before the Warriors again threw out the Irwins as they received a standing ovation from the sellout crowd. After the Irwins made it back into the ring, it ways anything goes as each team tried to put the other away early with brutal assaults.

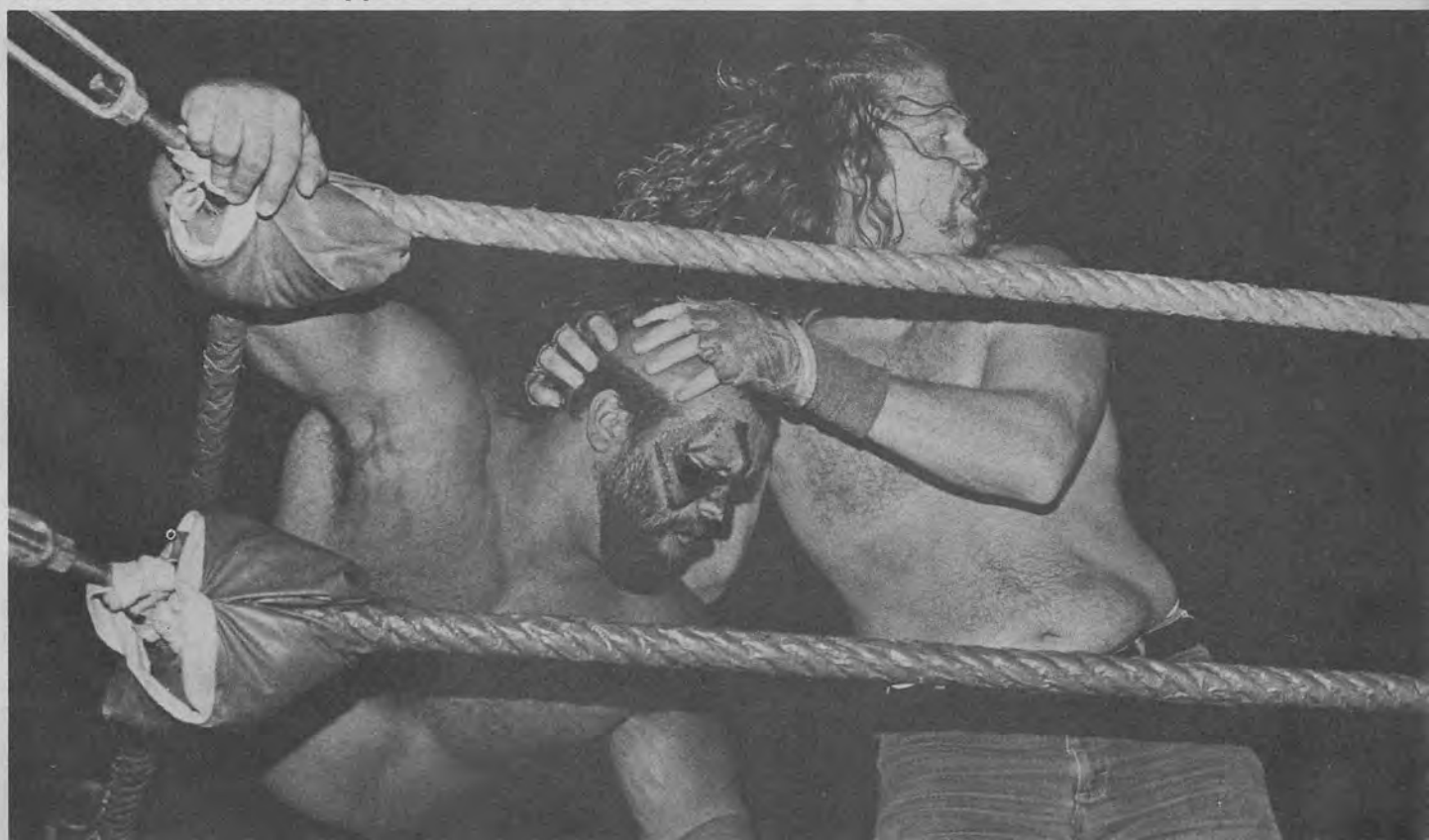
The action carried out of the ring as Bill threw Animal out in Scott's corner before distracting the referee as Animal was clubbed, slammed and thrown over a guard rail into the second and third row of seats. As he attempted to get up, Animal was



Scott Irwin battles Animal outside the ring.

Bill tags off to Scott as they double team Animal.

Wild Bill has Animal trapped in the corner.



Wild Bill matches strength with Animal.

slammed on the concrete by Scott who also got into a brief altercation with a few pro-Warriors fans coming to Animal's rescue. After tossing Animal back into the ring, the brothers tried to finish him off by clotheslining him with Bill's belt, an action which resulted in their immediate disqualification. The battle still raged on as the Warriors managed to get the strap away from Bill only to clothesline him as his brother threw twelve steel chairs into the ring to protest the decision.

After the match, neither team talked about the outcome except to say that their biker rumbles are far from over. All four men vowed revenge on the other team in retaliation for the pain and humiliation they suffered in this important match. The hatred runs deep between both teams and this confrontation between rival gangs may best be settled inside of a cage, but one thing is certain: the latest biker war must have a winner soon before bloodshed begins. ★

Bill Irwin has Animal on the outside of the ring.

Bill Irwin grabs Animal by the neck.

NWA TAG TEAM T•R•A•G•E•D•Y•!

The Red Menace: Krusher Khruschev, Boris Zuchoff, Nikita and Ivan Koloff are deterimined to finish off the Express.

Russians Defeat R&R EXPRESS!

By PHYLLIS PUCKETT

The Russians have once again claimed ownership of the NWA World Tag belts.

The belts changed hands in mid-October when the Rock & Roll Express, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, met the Russian faction of Ivan and Nikita Koloff in yet another intense confrontation. Krusher Khruschev, wrestling's own "man without a country" was, of course, present at ringside to stand guard and offer aid when necessary.

Stipulations for the match called for no time limit and no disqualifications. The item that was overlooked in the setting of the rules was Krusher's presence. Had he been barred from ringside perhaps the outcome would have been different. On the other hand, if Krusher hadn't interfered it would very likely have been some other equally unsettling circumstance that would have enabled the Russians to win the belts.

The action opened with Nikita and Morton and never stopped. After the opening scuffle and feinting for position, Rick took the advantage with a spectacular flying body block from the top rope. Nikita could go nowhere but down. Morton's attempted pin at this point was foiled by Ivan's quick entrance with a boot to his back. And Gibson was just as quickly there to even the numbers. As the

referee attempted to put Ivan back into his corner, the R & R Express threw Nikita into the turnbuckle and delivered a double drop kick to Ivan's back.

This move unfortunately proved to be part of their own downfall. The force of Ivan's fall was absorbed by the referee who landed soundly on the concrete outside the ring. Krusher, sensing an opportunity, came up onto the ring apron. His move was met with another double kick from Rick and Robert. With Nikita again approaching, he too received the Rock & Roll specialty.

Rick mounted the top rope with the R & R duplication of the huge Russian chain as Robert struggled to hold the mighty Nikita erect. Rick leapt from his perch, slamming the chain firmly to Nikita's head. (Remember this was a no d.q. match which most times translates to "anything goes" but remember — it was a tag match and that means four men, not five).

Morton once more covered Nikita for the pin. This one could easily have drawn a fifteen count instead of the needed three, but the referee was still outside the ring. As Robert went to lend assistance, he was jumped by Krusher, leaving Rick to do battle alone.

Ivan re-entered the ring and overpowered Morton, whipping him into the ropes. Morton succeeded in diverting whatever plan Ivan had in mind by jumping in and straddling his waist. Ivan's next move was lights out for Morton. As Ivan fell backwards with Morton's weight, he also released his grasp, sending Rick head first into the turnbuckle which had been wrap-

Koloff catches Ricky Morton in his sleeper hold.

The Rock & Roll Express are hoping to regain their NWA World's Tag Team title belts.

ped with the Russian chain. The chain was hastily removed as Ivan positioned himself for the pin. Once the referee counted the fatal three count the titles belonged to the Russians.

Although the Russians now have the title, the fight is not over. The Russians, who unceremoniously refer to the interpretation of USA as "Useless Stinking Americans" or "Underpriveledged Stupid Americans," show expansive satisfaction at their achievement. They would do well, however, to keep in mind that the Rock & Roll Express has not been an easy prey. Size and strength are not the attributes that they rely on as do the Russians but the Rockers' determination, quickness and natural ability to convert an opponent's maneuver to their advantage has stood them against the profession's best, and they have no intention of calling the matter closed.

"Yeah, they have the belts back," shouts Rick, "but they won't be keepin' them. They got them by their typical twisted means—three on two—but we won't be giving up. We're going to be right behind them and all over them every chance we get 'cause they make us sicker now than ever. They're always talkin' about Americans and puttin' us down, and all the time, they're sitting here drinking our milk and eating our honey and bragging about how they're going to pave the road to Russia. Well, they can count on pavin' their road if they want, but it won't be with American gold. It'll be with stuff nobody likes to step in."

Their meetings since cannot be termed wrestling matches. Most of them are not even sanctioned by the NWA. One such confrontation was a double chain match. While

Ivan Koloff bends Robert Gibsons legs and the Rocker lets out a scream.

the following description will probably fall short of creating the exact blow-by-blow, it will hopefully illustrate the limits that both teams are willing to go to in order to rid wrestling of what each considers to be an unhealed sore and determine clear victors to this NWA title.

Just keeping the hatred in

Gibson twists Koloff's leg as Ricky Morton watches the action.

Robert Gibson pins Ivan's shoulders to the mat.

Koloff has Morton trapped on the ropes.

check until each set of men could be securely bound at the wrist by the huge chains was an ordeal. Robert was linked to Ivan and Rick to the towering Krusher. Nikita was not at ringside, but as things turned out, they succeeded in inventing other means to make up for his absence.

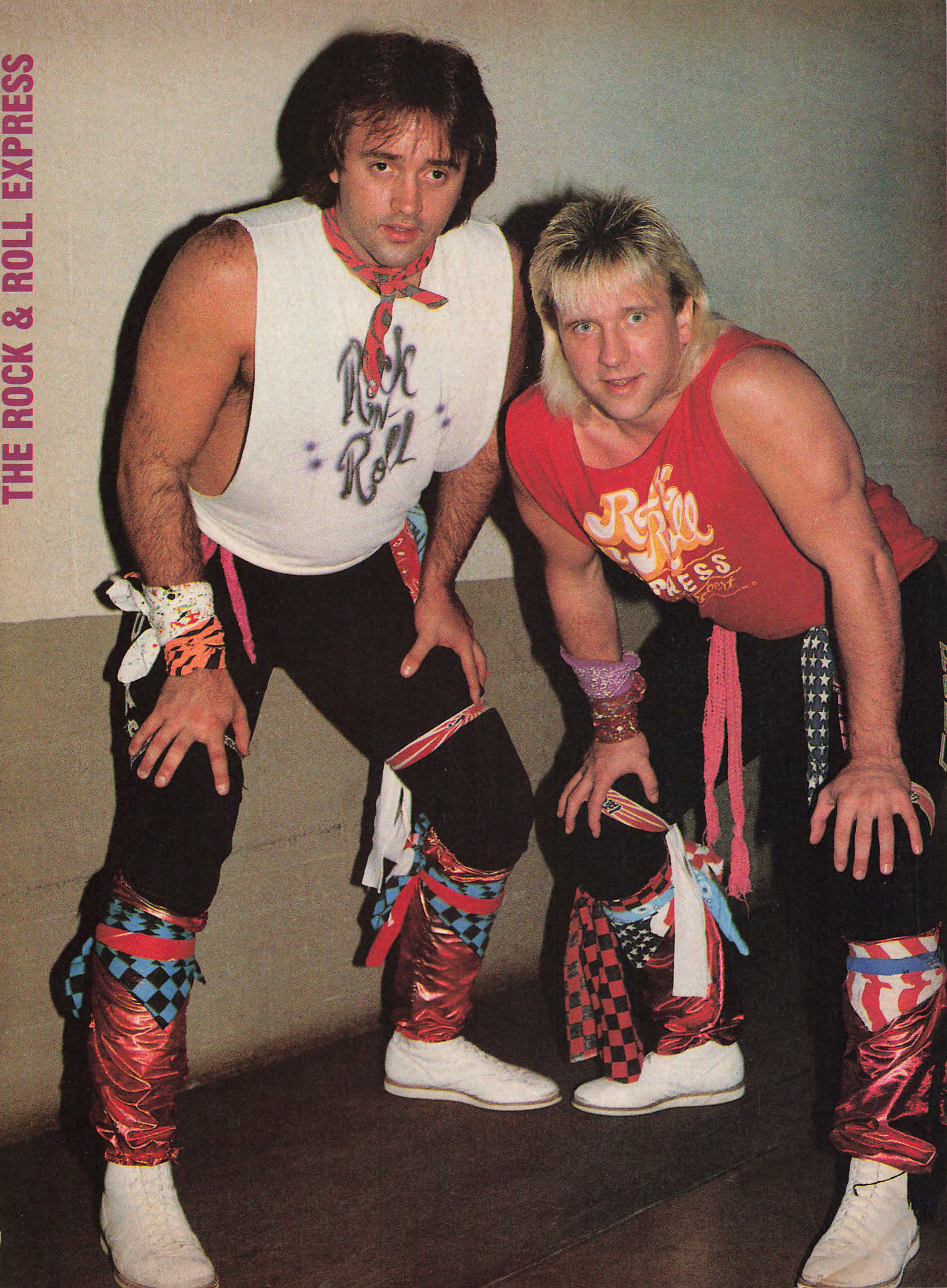
Every man found himself dangling through the ropes at one time or another while the other end of his confinement was still within the ring. The battering was relentless. The enormous links of chain caused the blood to stain every corner of the ring as well as the surrounding floor. The vengeance was frightening as they tried to hang one another and literally smash as much flesh as possible.

It took awhile but no one could actually claim suprise when the Russians managed to kick and knock the referee to the floor. Then, as Ivan and Robert battled on the ropes, Krusher, who was also inside the ring, dangled a near-beaten Morton outside. Krusher then slipped the belt fastener from his wrist and helped Ivan put the finishing touches on Gibson. Quickly replacing the band, he held Morton out until the referee crawled to the mat and ended the melee with a three count for the Russians who wasted no time in exiting through the enraged mob.

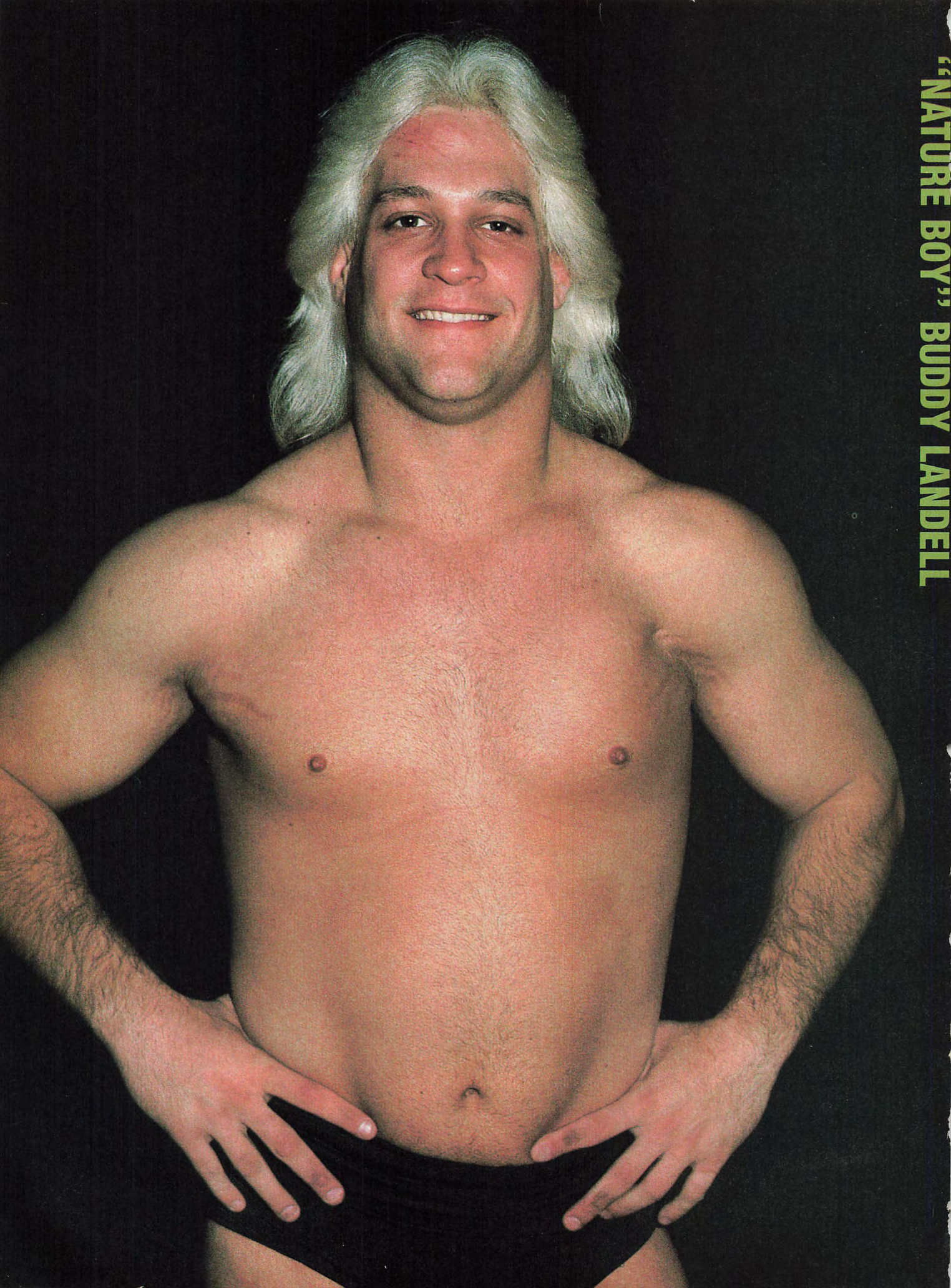
As the history of professional wrestling will prove, there are no victors in these bloodbaths. Once emotions begin to run this high, the participants enter a collision course that has no limitations or rules. The cause many times becomes lost along the way. They become consumed or possessed in a search and destroy mission.

Perhaps by this printing the matter will be solved or at least have calmed to a degree that allows life to resume on a more peaceful keel. Starcade 85—The Gathering will put the war within the confines of a steel cage. This is not always the answer nor even a point that we like to see things come to, yet when there seems to be no other alternative it has on occasion served to tire those involved in the battle for awhile.

The difference between the two countries honored by these men have always existed and wil not be resolved by the outcome of this private war. But neither can you fault the valor and pride with which the Rock & Roll Express have stood against the invasion. ★

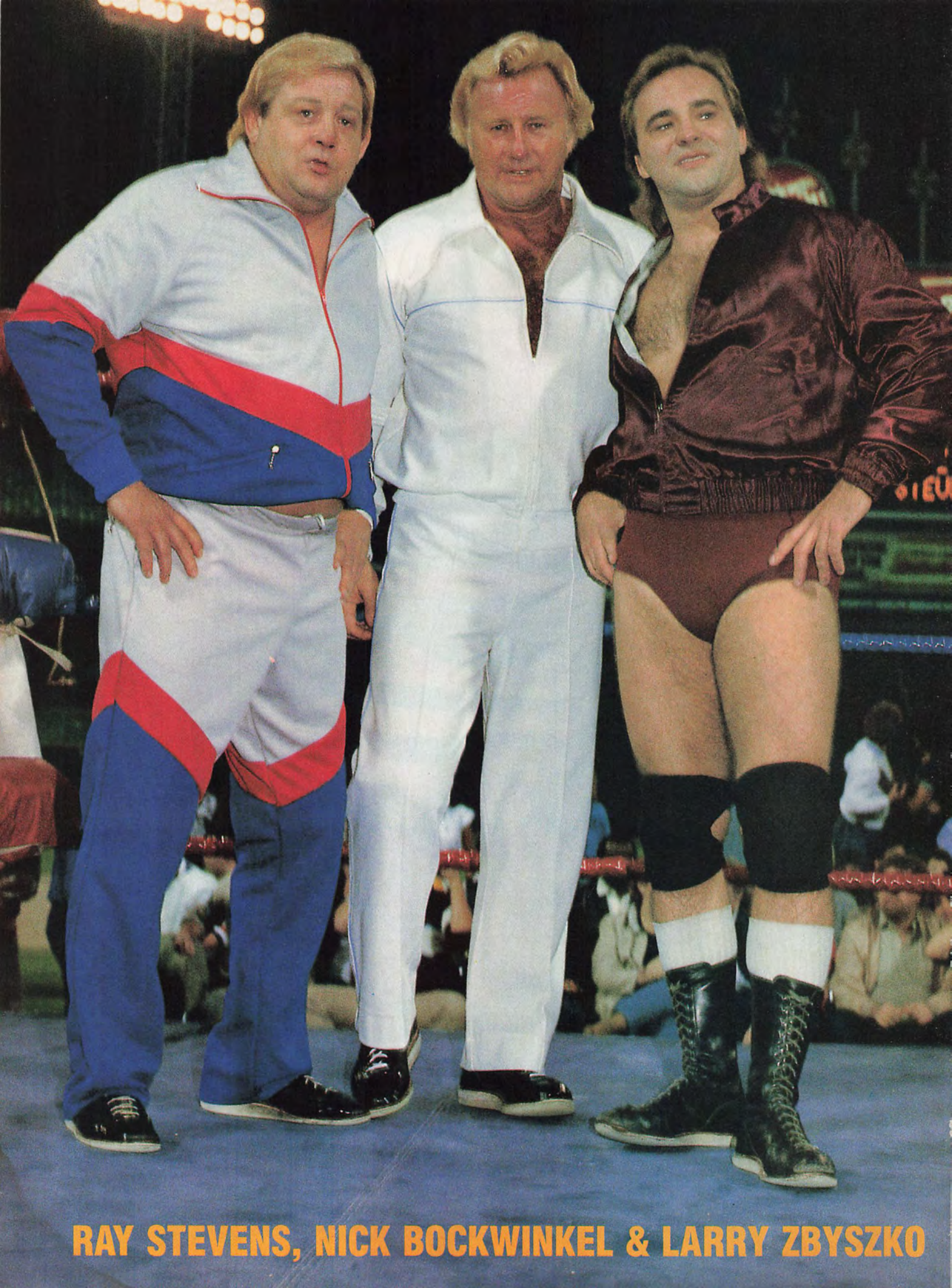


THE ROCK & ROLL EXPRESS



"NATURE BOY" BUDDY LANDELL

JIM BRUNZELL & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE



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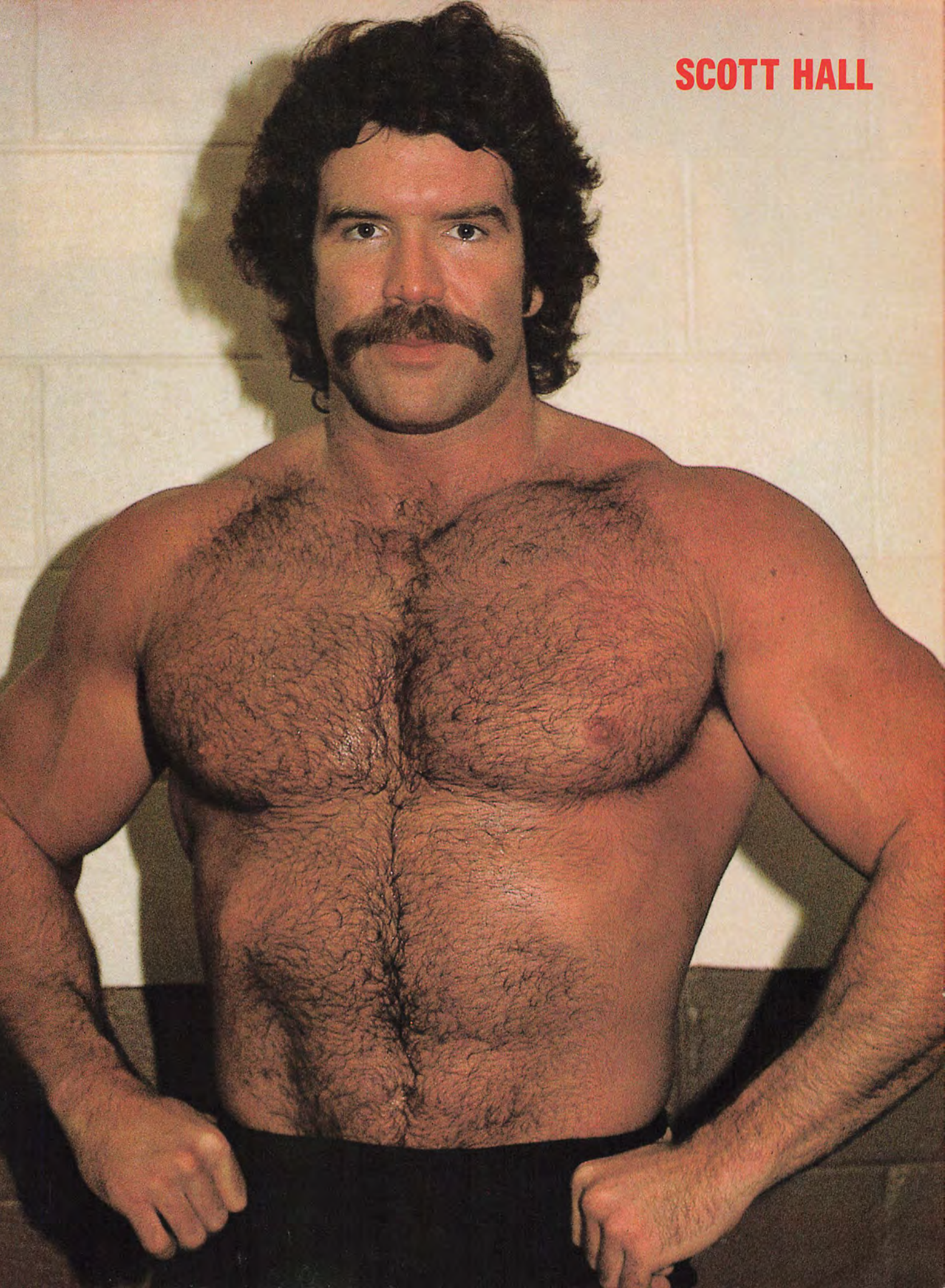
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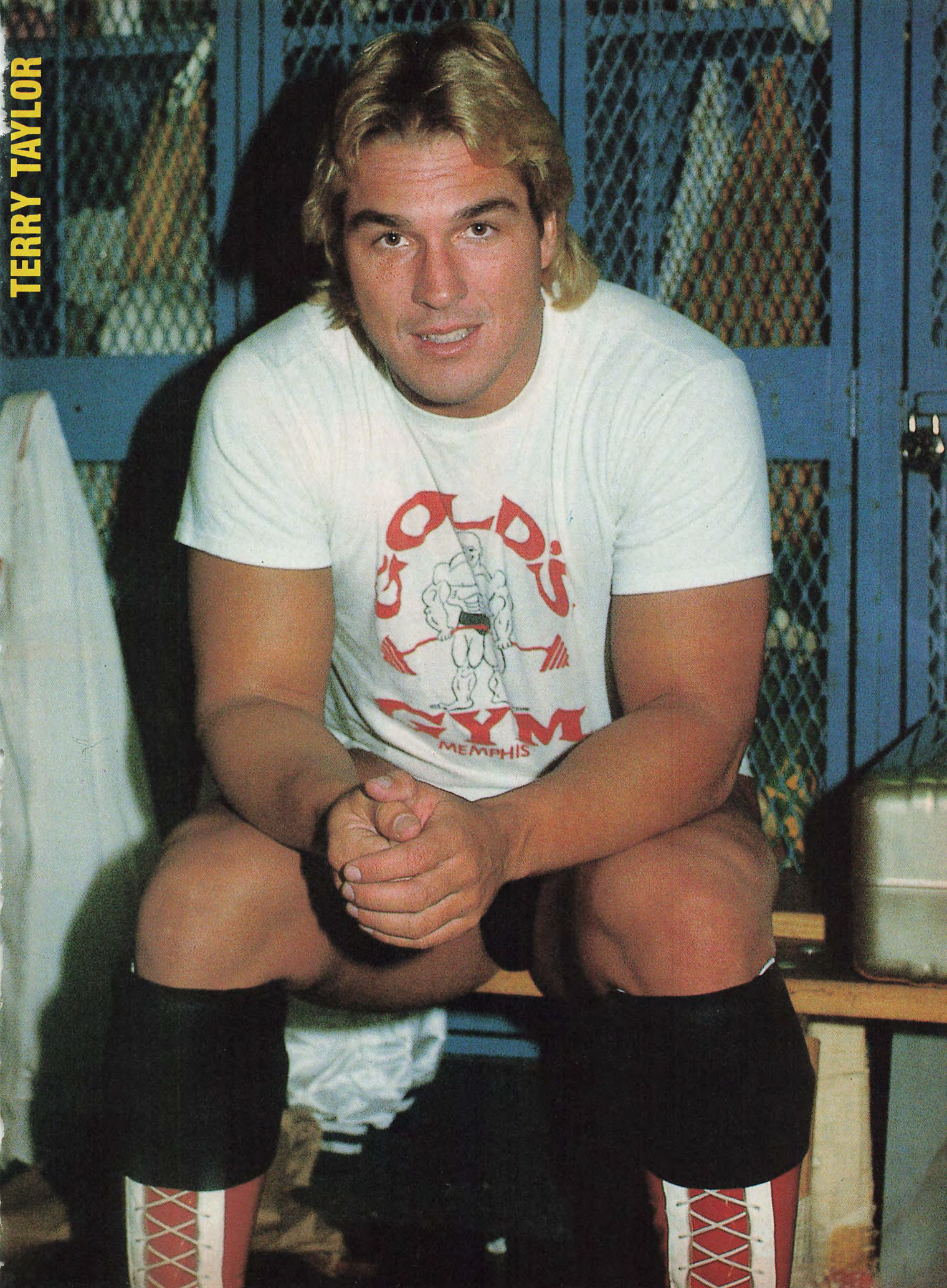
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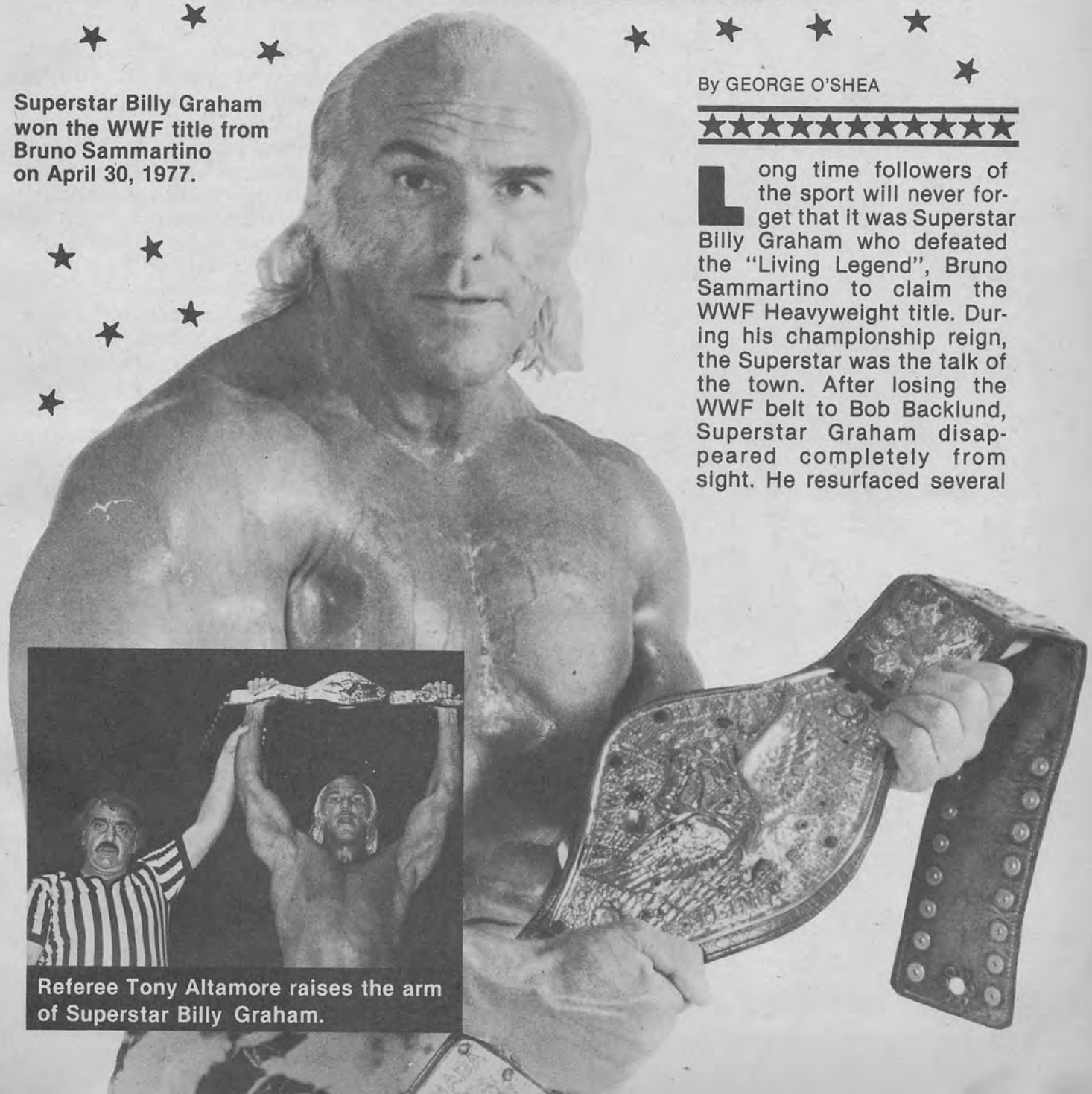
SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

"Barbarian Is An Obscene Creature From The Bowels Of The Earth!"

BELLOWS SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

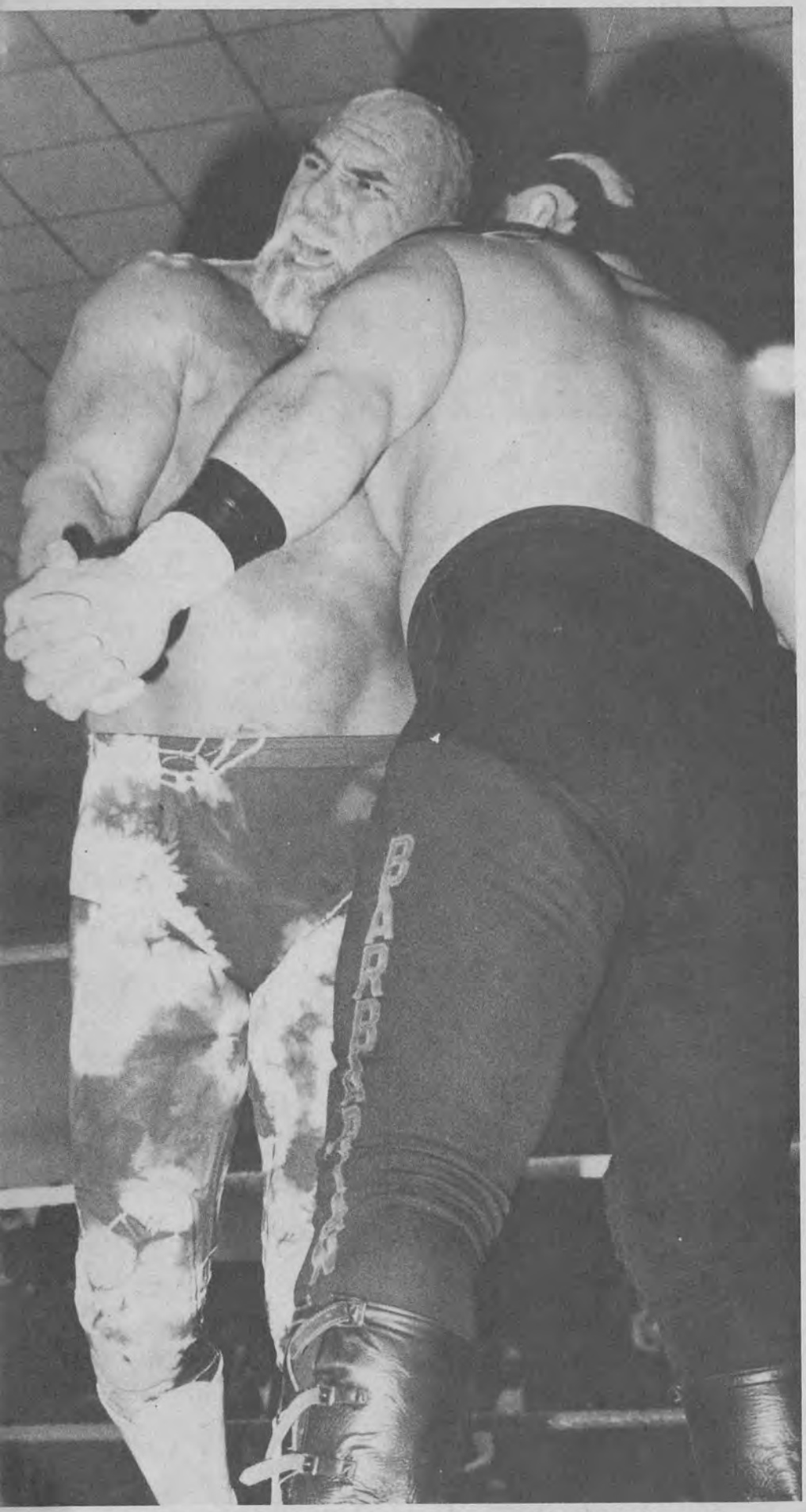
By GEORGE O'SHEA



Superstar Billy Graham won the WWF title from Bruno Sammartino on April 30, 1977.

Referee Tony Altamore raises the arm of Superstar Billy Graham.

Long time followers of the sport will never forget that it was Superstar Billy Graham who defeated the "Living Legend", Bruno Sammartino to claim the WWF Heavyweight title. During his championship reign, the Superstar was the talk of the town. After losing the WWF belt to Bob Backlund, Superstar Graham disappeared completely from sight. He resurfaced several



Graham and the Barbarian engage in a test of strength.

SUPERSTAR: That's right, other rooms, other places, other times. But the time has come in my career to finally acknowledge the fans' tremendous support for me. The people out there never wanted me to relinquish the title, and I will be back to once again wreak mayhem on Hulk Hogan in the WWF. Mark my words as I stand here in the NWA locker room. The time will come. The fans demand it. Superstar Billy Graham and Hulk Hogan face to face after I defeat Ric Flair for the NWA title.

RINGSIDE: Many years ago, we used to travel together to this same arena, and even then, the people used to support you. Tonight, the turnout was great and the fan support was tremendous.

SUPERSTAR: The response was tremendous. At last I'm letting myself go. The people always wanted to reach out and touch these 24-inch pythons. Finally, Superstar Billy Graham has reached out to the people: the poor people, the sick people, the healthy people, the rich people, the beautiful people. And they all are wild over the Superstar.

RINGSIDE: You mentioned Ric Flair. Will you be wrestling him any time soon?

SUPERSTAR: My lawyers are working on signing a contract withRicFlair right now, and hopefully, it will be somewhere in the Northeastern part of the U.S. where I have tremendous amount of support. There will be a definite meeting between Superstar Billy Graham and Ric Flair for the NWA World's title.

years later only to be thwarted in his attempt at regaining the WWF Heavyweight belt. During the last few years, Graham traveled around the wrestling world without any real direc-

tion. He professed to be adept at the martial arts and even dressed in a karate gi.

But finally, the days of Superstar's kung fu get-up are over. Graham has reverted back to his old style, and he is once again dressing, talking and wrestling like the Superstar of old. Maybe this is the thing that he needs to get back on top. Recently, I had the pleasure of talking to the Superstar before a Pro Wrestling USA card in the New Haven Coliseum.

RINGSIDE: Billy, it's great to see you again. You're looking good. You're talking the Superstar of old but your surroundings have changed.

SUPERSTAR: That's right-I'm here with the Rock & Roll Express, Magnum T.A., the Baron, up and coming Curt Hennig. Superstar Billy Graham live and in color in New Haven.

RINGSIDE: You've mentioned all the people who are sitting here in the dressing room. Other times when I've talked to you, you've been in the other dressing room surrounded by a whole different cast of characters.

RINGSIDE: You've mentioned Hulk Hogan. Many people might not be aware that the Hulk used to look up to you when you held the WWF championship, and he has told you this. Isn't this so?

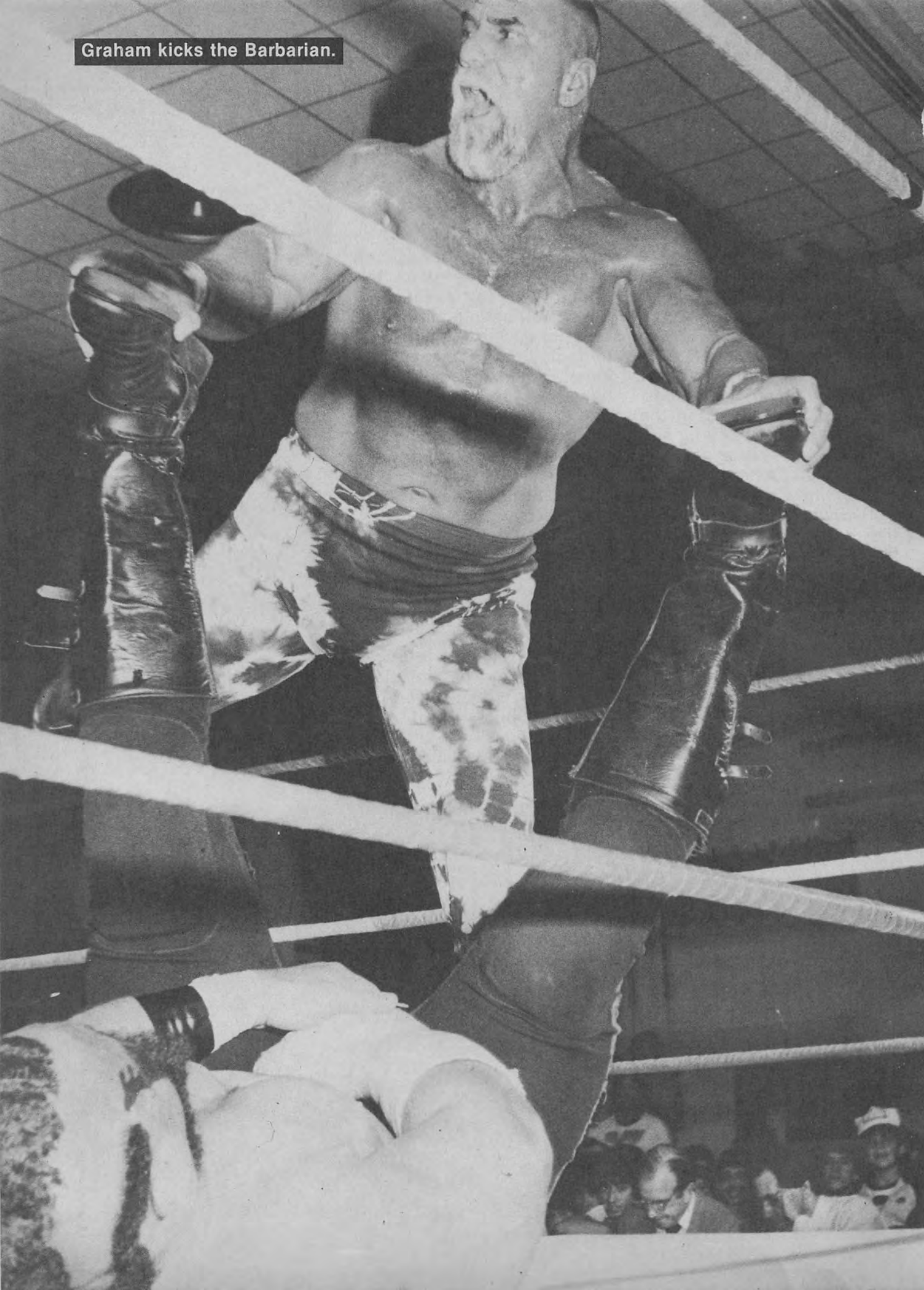
SUPERSTAR: That's correct. The Hulkster used to watch me as a teenager in Florida. Now he does the things I used to do years ago. He's a fantastic champion, a great charismatic champion. In fact, he's the most marketed champion the world has ever seen. I've got to give credit to the man. He's tremendous, but I would still love to have the opportunity to face him.

RINGSIDE: Today, there's a big hype over the Rock-n-Wrestling Connection, but in 1977, during your championship reign, the record people were there too.

SUPERSTAR: You remember everything, don't you? It's true they were all there. But at the time, the WWF didn't take advantage of the publicity with MCA records and all the different celebraties. They were all en-

The Superstar's tremendous strength is in evidence as he applies his Bear Hug on Gorilla Monsoon in their 1977 bout.

The fans reach out to touch the star.



Graham kicks the Barbarian.

joying pro wrestling just as they do now, but the media is pushing it today and everyone now thinks that it's a new phenomena.

RINGSIDE: Do you feel better about yourself now that you have changed your ways?

SUPERSTAR: There was a man running around the country impersonating Superstar Billy Graham and wearing karate pants calling himself a black belt, a martial arts expert....But in all honesty, the people wanted to see the real Superstar Billy Graham: the colors, the charisma, the chills and thrills. There was a tremendous demand by the wrestling public which sparked the re-emergence of the original Superstar Billy Graham.

RINGSIDE: What really happened between yourself, Paul Jones, Abdullah and the Barbarian?

SUPERSTAR: First of all this Barbarian is a beast. He's the lowest form of life on this earth. The combination of him and Abdullah the Butcher, along with Paul Jones, conspired against me. They were jealous. They saw the throngs, they saw the masses, they saw the Rock & Roll Express talking to the Superstar, encouraging him on to greatness, and this upset them. They couldn't take it. The pressure was too much for them to bear and they conspired against me. But these animals, these beasts, these obscene creatures from the bowels of the earth will pay the ultimate price and the ultimate price will be defeat at the hands of Superstar Billy Graham with the backbreaker, the hold that no man alive can ever break.

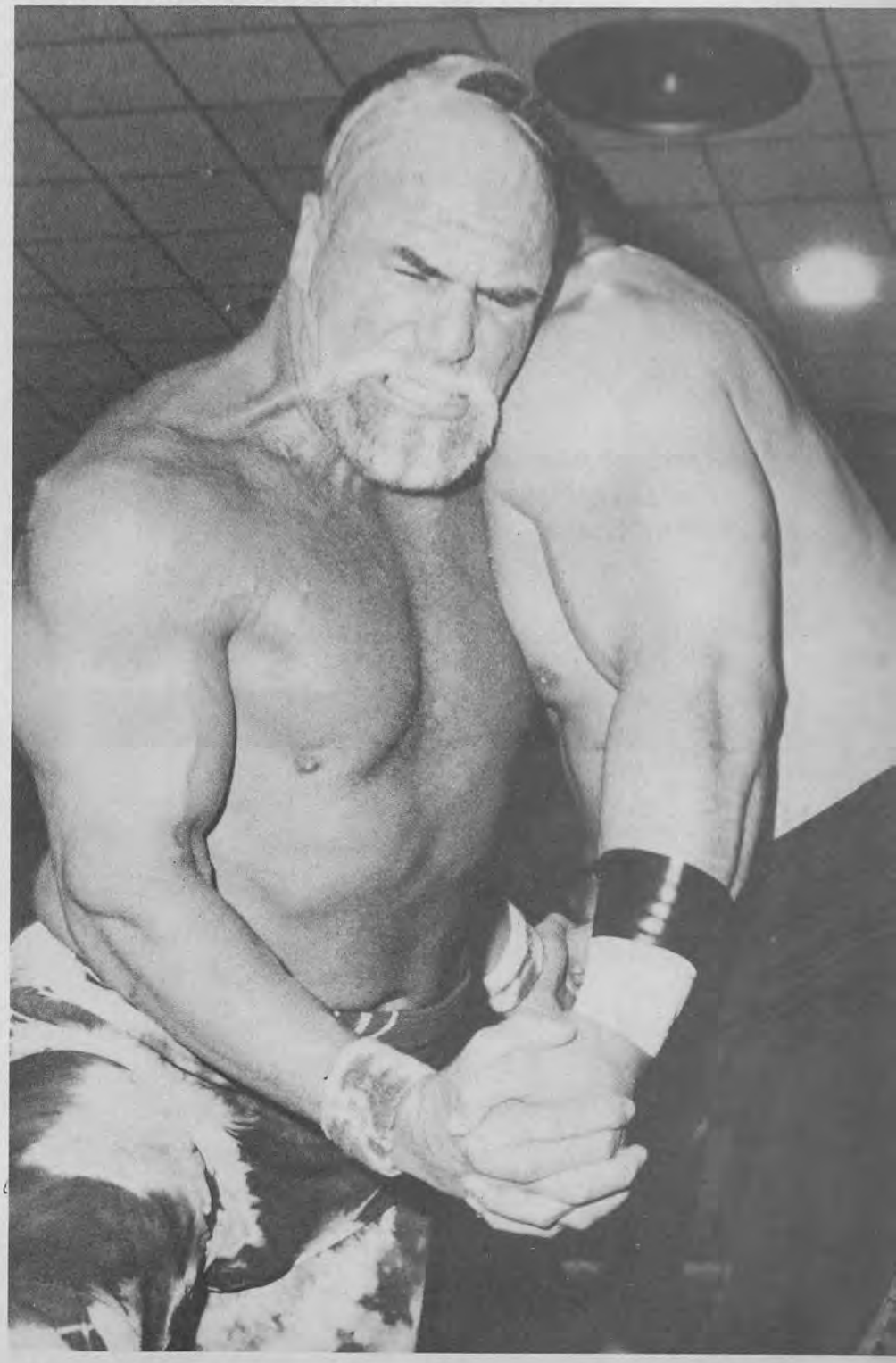
RINGSIDE: You now appear stronger and more determined than ever before.

SUPERSTAR: Yes, George, I'm definitely stronger, and more determined than ever. No one will ever pin my shoulders to the mat.

RINGSIDE: Billy, it's great seeing you again, and I'm looking forward to the day when you win another major championship.

SUPERSTAR: Thank you very much. As long as I keep my head level, keep myself in the gym, training and working out hard, take my vitamins and proteins, say my prayers every night and thank the Lord for giving me my health, my power and strength again, I know I will be back on top.★

Graham is getting the best of the Barbarian.



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BOBBY HEENAN: "Not Even Hulk Hogan Can Stop BUNDY & STUDD!"

By PAUL HEYMAN

It has not been a good year for Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. As a matter of fact, his little "empire" in the World Wrestling Federation has been perilously close to crumbling for several months. First, his "bread and butter" tag team, Big John Studd and Ken Patera was broken up when the latter was sentenced to prison. Then Bobby got canned by Paul Orndorff on national television. And as if that weren't enough, no one could collect the bounty "The Brain" has placed on the

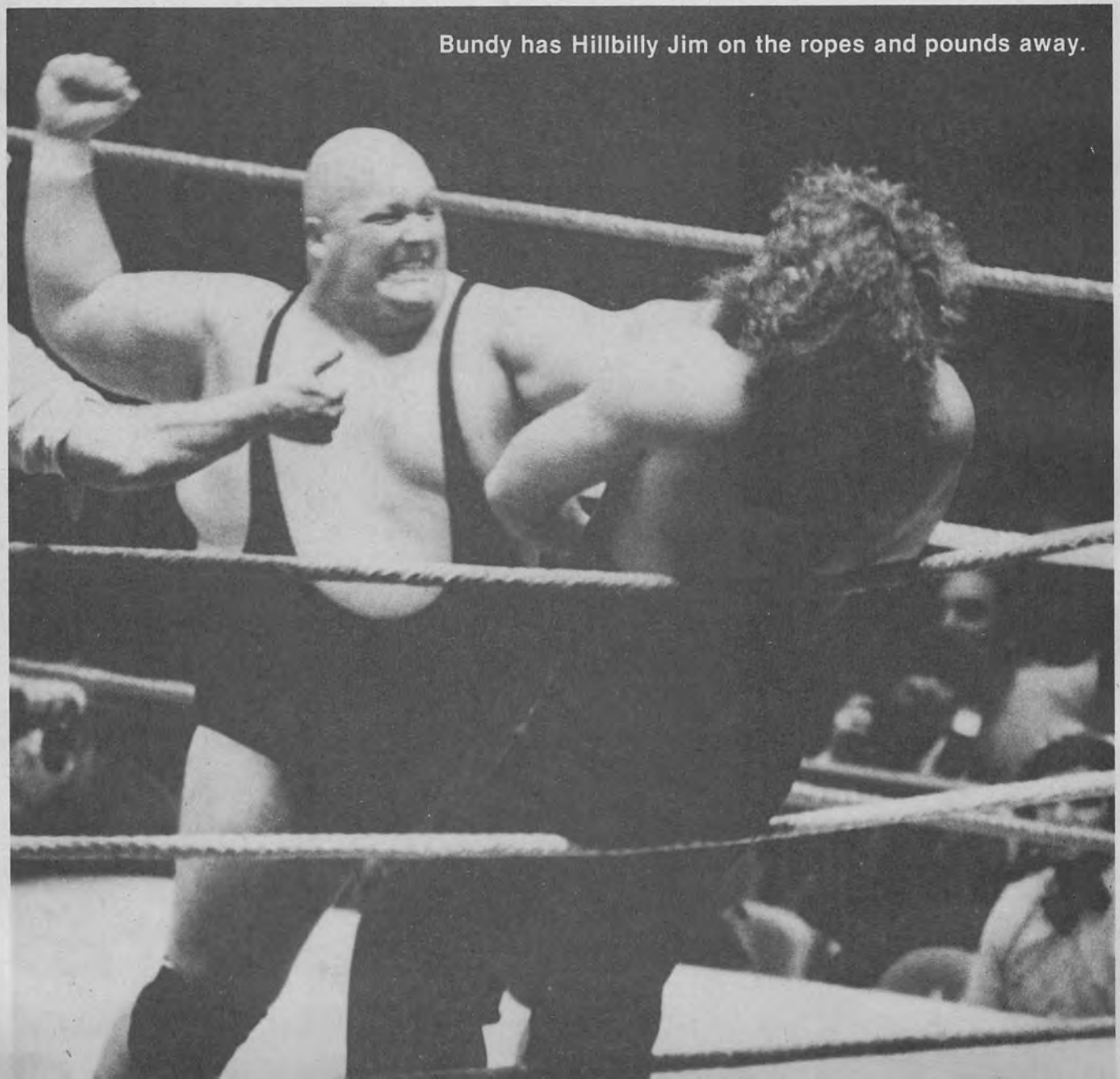
Andre hurls Big John Studd across the ring.

Big John Studd bends Andre's arm.

head of his former client!

But if Bobby thought things were going to get better, he was terribly mistaken. He spent a fortune purchasing The Missing Link's contract from Florida Tycoon Percy Pringle, and Adrian Adonis's contract from a West Texas management firm. Adonis just couldn't get his act together in WWF rings, and Link proved to be only moderately successful. And in the meantime, John Studd was going stale. Something had to be done. . . but what?

Just three days before NOT winning the WWF Manager of The Year Award (yet another blow to the massive Heenan ego), Bobby struck a deal with fellow manager Jimmy Hart, who gave up the 400-plus pound King Kong Bundy in exchange for Link and Adonis. Heenan not only picked up one awesome professional wrestler, but also got rid of his two liabilities. And to make the sweet deal even sweeter, Bobby had



Bundy has Hillbilly Jim on the ropes and pounds away.

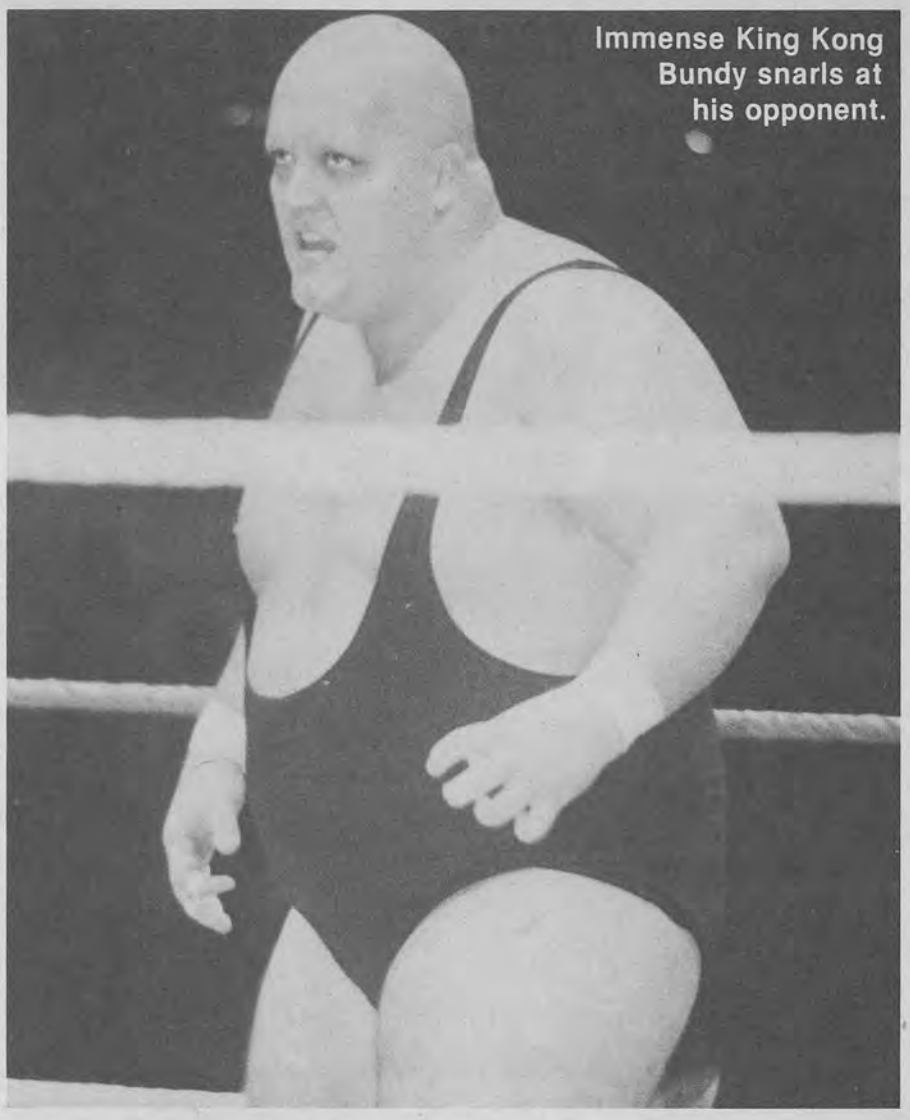
found something to get John Studd back "into the groove."

Studd and Bundy were already acquainted with each other. In Toronto, Heenan introduced the two, and as it turned out, it was King Kong who saved Big John from a humiliating haircut at the hands of 7' 5" Andre The Giant. Studd held Andre down as Bundy delivered four splashes, causing The Giant to suffer from a horribly displaced sternum.

Three days after the deal was completed, Heenan introduced his new tag team to the wrestling world on Piper's Pit, and the Studd/Bundy team proved their worth to "The Brain" just minutes later when they downed Hillbilly Jim after Heenan clubbed Lou Albano from behind with ALBANO'S Manager of the Year trophy! "We knocked out that Hillbilly just like we knocked out Andre!" Bundy laughed, "and we're gonna knock out a lotta other people before we're through!" Luckily for the big boy from Kentucky, Bundy had time to administer only three splashes, and Hillbilly Jim got away with only severely bruised ribs.

"You know, I kind of feel sorry for Andre and Hillbilly," Bundy stated with obvious sarcasm, "because they're both so fat and injured. I wonder which parts of their bodies Studd and I will smash next!"

John Studd was Bobby Heenan's first WWF client when the manager invaded the Titan promotion in Mid-1984. Offering to be Studd's manager after the 6' 10", 470-plus pound rulebreaker was released from his contract by then-manager Rowdy Roddy Piper (they parted amicably, and are still good friends),

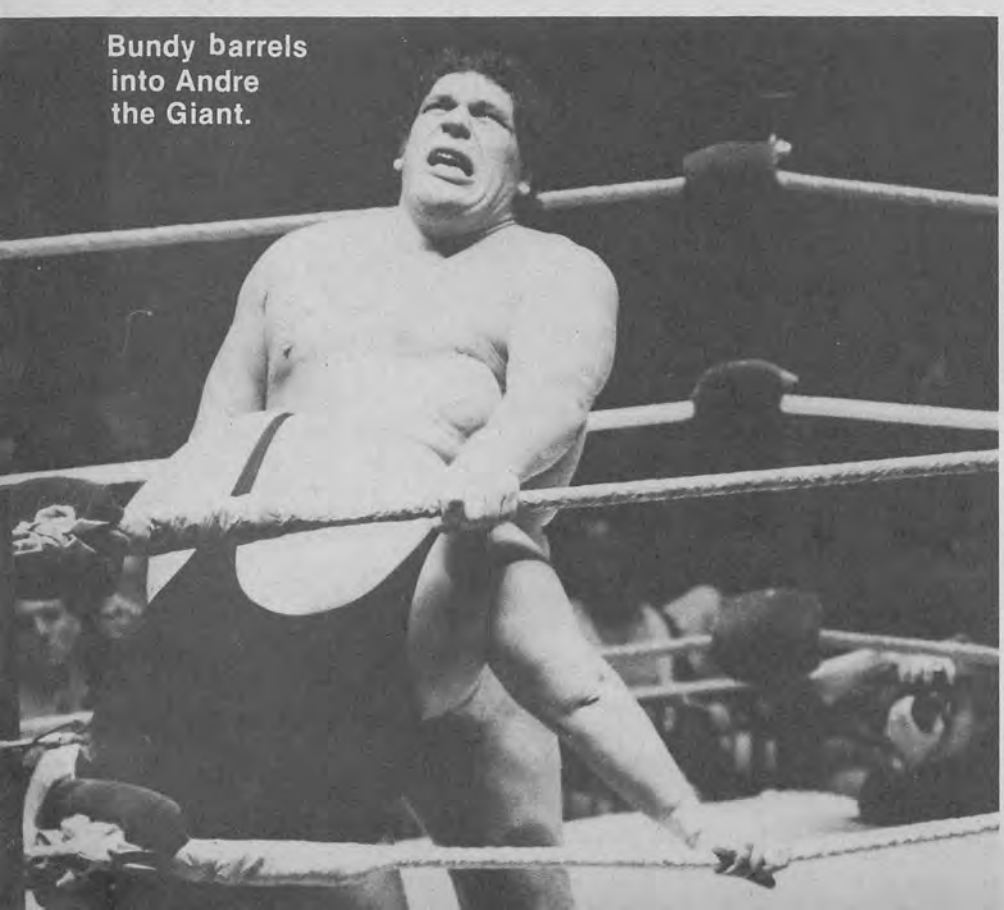


Immense King Kong Bundy snarls at his opponent.

Bundy and Studd double team the Giant.

★★★★★

Bobby Heenan and Big John Studd await the start of the battle.



Bundy barrels into Andre the Giant.

Heenan felt he had a real winner in Big John. He soon started building a new "family" of rulebreakers, picking up Ken Patera's contract as well. "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff and Playboy Buddy Rose (who was fired after only three weeks by Heenan) were next. But then the roses turned to thorns, and Bobby "The Brain" Heenan almost suffered a terrible downfall.

"Hey, I admit I had a slump," Heenan candidly stated, "but then again so does everyone else. What separates me from those clock-punching humanoids is *I* can bounce back from a slump, they can't. First thing goes wrong in their life, they're hunched over a bar stool begging for another shot of tequila or ripple!"

And bounce back he did. Heenan is on top again, as Paul Orndorff seems to be wearing down and the team of Bundy and Studd seem unstoppable. "Who's gonna stop my team?" Heenan asked. "The Killer Bees? You gotta be kidding me! Windham and Rotundo? They barely weigh 500 pounds together. Bundy and Studd weigh 810 pounds! Can you believe that? 810 pounds of pure mean inside one wrestling ring!

"Killer Bees? Windham and Rotundo? Junkyard Dog and Tito Santana? Forget it! No one's gonna come close!"

Which brings us to our next question. Who can stop Bundy and Studd? NOBODY!

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Looks like ordinary gum—**BUT WAIT "TILL THEY TASTE IT!** And the "flavor" lasts long after they spit out the gum! Great for the "mooch" who always wants gum, candy, spare change. Watch their eyes water and lips painfully pucker up! **AAAAAAGGHHH!** Fools them all because it's professionally manufactured to look just like a regular pack of gum! 5 merciless sticks in each package!

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Bundy and Andre engage in a test of strength.

Event and made fools of themselves. Andre and Hillbilly Jim have also tried, only to find that Bundy and Studd will not back down from them. And God help Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake should Heenan decide to forget his friendship with "Luscious" Johnny Valiant and go after the tag team championship.

"Hey, I don't see anyone around who can even budge us!" Studd exclaimed, laughing so so hard he actually started to choke. "These teams are all a bunch of losers! Bring on some real competition. Put us in against three or four guys at a time, and we'll still mop the floor with them!"

"That's right!" King Kong chimed in, "and I'll hold 'em down for a five count, too! You understand? Not three, but FIVE!"

In all of professional wrestling, there is only one team that even hopes of competing with this awesome combination—The Road Warriors! But, unfortunately, there is no hope of a showdown between the super teams, because, as we all know, politics rules in this great sport.

"I don't care about federations or politics," Heenan boasted, "if the Warriors have enough guts to sign a contract against Bundy and Studd, we'll be there. Just find a promoter with enough nerve to sign the bout!"

But since there is no hope of such a match occurring (at least not in the near future), perhaps we should look ahead to the future for Bundy and Studd.

And the future, sorry to tell you folks, is going to be mighty dim for all fan favorites who stand in their way. Even Hulk Hogan—undoubtedly the most popular wrestler in the world—doesn't stand a chance against these two titans of the mat.

And when they get tired of beating up fan favorites, they'll tell Heenan to get them matches with tougher opponents, and "The Brain" will do as he's told. And then a tougher side of the sport will be rocked by this 810-pound combination.

And when they're finished there, they'll buck the establishment (as Heenan's famous for doing) and take on top tag teams from other federations. And again, no one will stand up to Bundy and Studd.

Because King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd are just too big, too quick, too agile. . . just too incredible!

And they'll go on from there. Over mountains, through brick walls and into the annals of professional wrestling history.

King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd are a tag team legend about to happen. And Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is going along for the ride! ★

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Truly, this ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEX—with its hundreds of revealing and instructive illustrations—may be just what you need to help make your life more rewarding, more exciting and more abundant with varied stimulating experiences. That is what sex is all about... and that is what The ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEX is all about—namely, to point the way to new and thrilling sexual delights through plain-spoken words and clearly explanatory pictures. You need merely have the will and desire to explore the information and knowledge contained in this bold book.

Here, in this massive 416-page volume, you will find important and most vital sex information, profusely punctuated with pictures of the male and female roles in sex relations. Here you will learn why some women think of themselves as "frigid" and many men think they are losing their potency, when in fact they are highly sexed individuals. You will discover how a man—regardless of past failures—can easily learn to master his own body... how he can develop the power to carry on coitus until he feels that both he and his wife have enjoyed their full measure of bodily union. You will learn of methods men have used and developed to exercise control over erection and ejaculation. You will discover systems to help prolong the sex act to make it as complete and as thoroughly joyous as it should be.

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Sex

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It is this accumulated mass of helpful and authentic information—made crystal clear through 200 frank and enlightening close-up pictures—that is yours in The ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEX. This amazing book was written for those who want to enjoy each other with the free, uninhibited, totally satisfying responses that bring unbounded sensual pleasure to marital love. Its every word—and picture—is aimed at helping couples discover secrets of sex that can help flood their marriage with the excitement and stimulation every couple needs and deserves.

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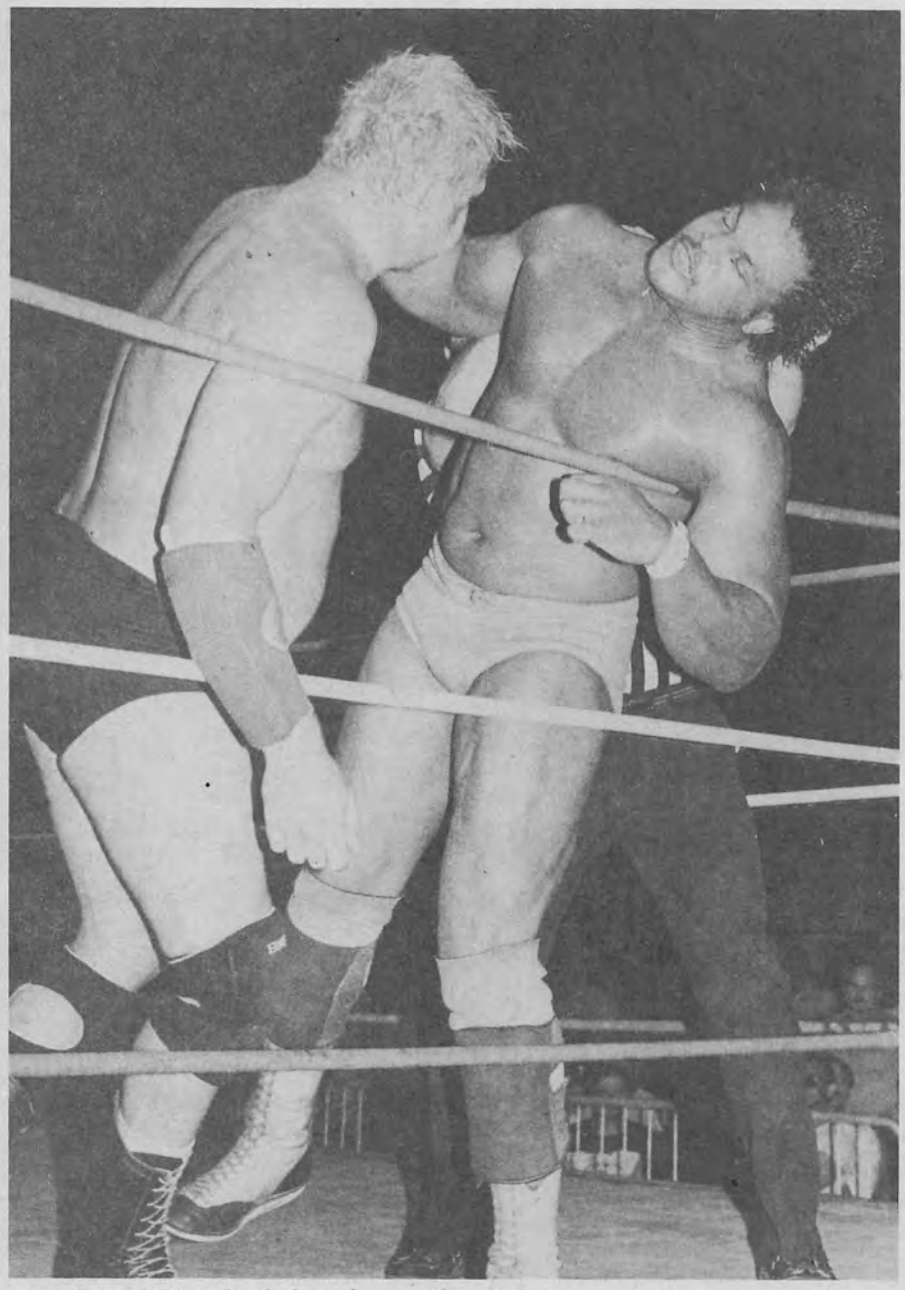
MID SOUTH EXPLODES!

Hacksaw Duggan Lights The Fuse!

By GREGORY JOSEPH



Reed and Murdoch battle on the ropes.

For explosive, non-stop action and excitement, one has to look no further than the Mid South territory. Night after night, week after week, the wrestling scene is nothing short of sensational throughout Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

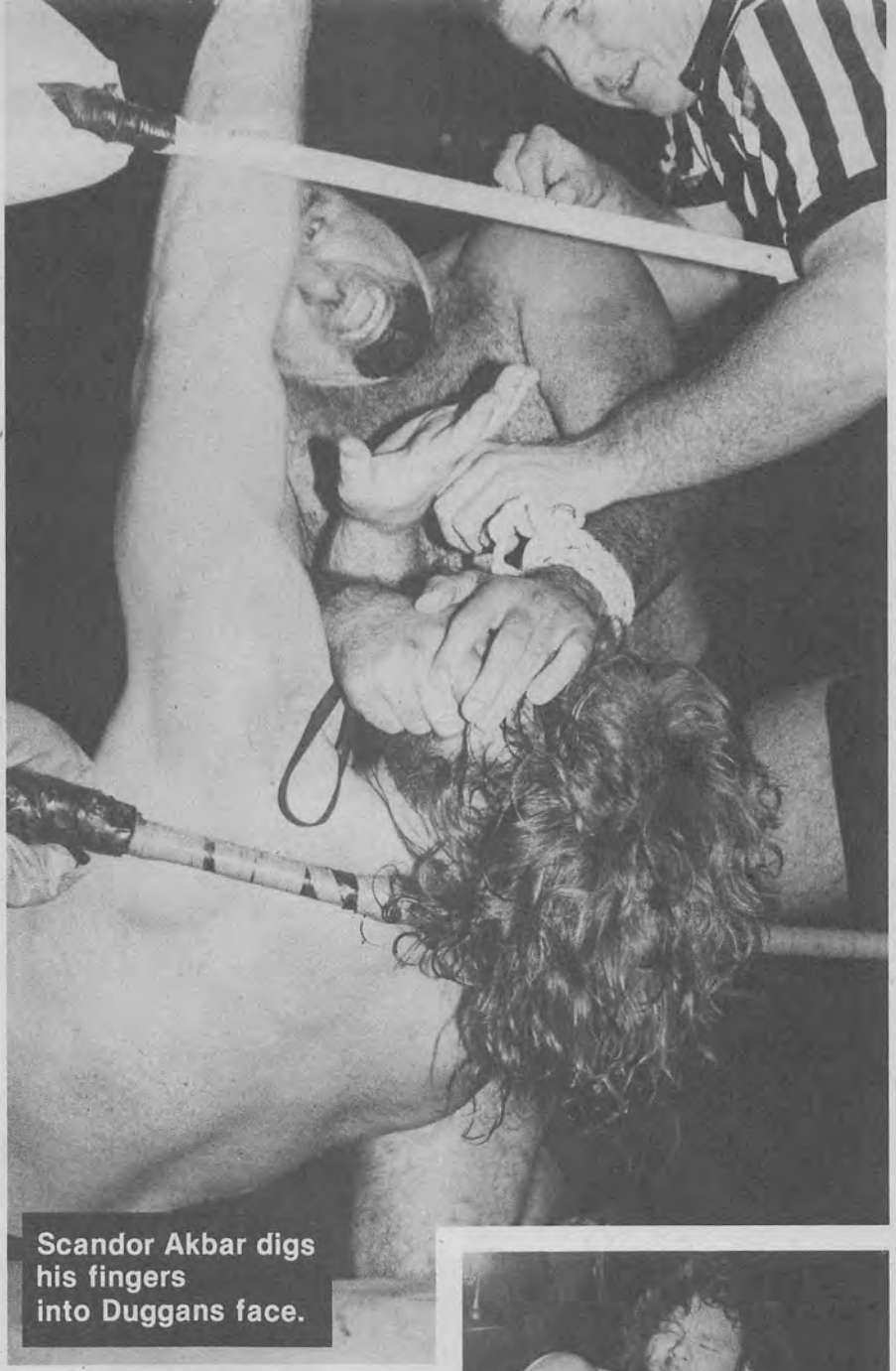
The biggest star in the Mid South is wild Hacksaw Jim Duggan. For the past few years, Duggan has been the number one man in the Mid South and his popularity continues to increase with each passing day. Duggan is now embroiled in a wild feud with Mad Dog Buzz Sawyer and

Dick Murdoch stomps on Hacksaw Butch Reed.

"Mr. Unpredictable" Dick Slater. The feud began after the Mad Dog dropped an elbow on Duggan's girl friend prior to a televised match. Dick Slater and Buzz Sawyer then double teamed Hacksaw, leaving him lying in center ring a battered and bloodied mess. You can be sure that the Hacksaw will somehow get his revenge on Slater and Sawyer just as he has on everyone else who has dared to cross his path. Duggan's last victim was Scandor Akbar, and in an explosive "A-train tough guy match," Duggan beat Akbar to a bloody pulp. Afterwards, Akbar left the area vowing to return someday and get his revenge.

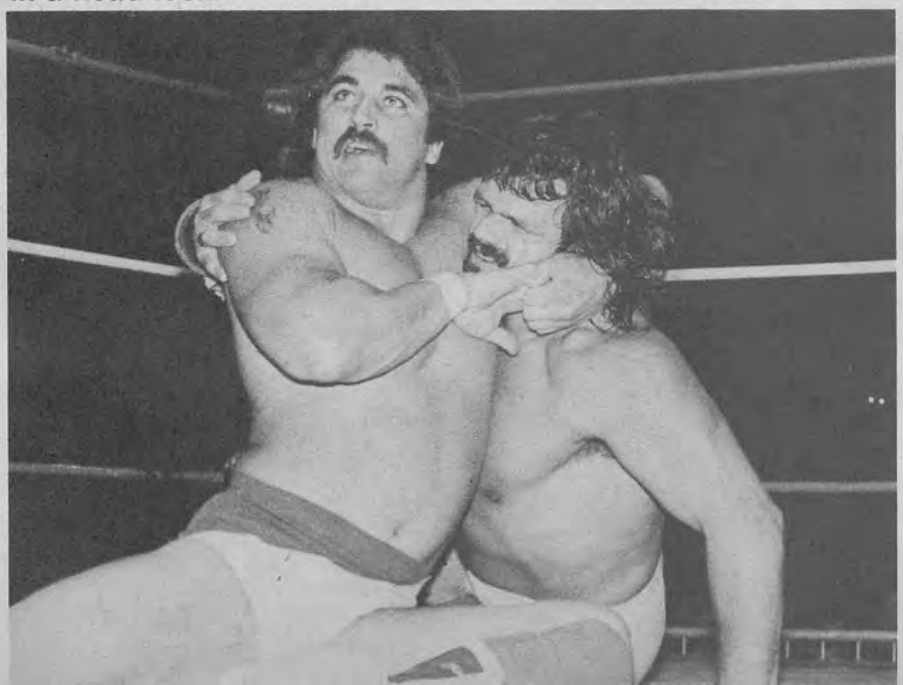
As we go to press, the Mid South North American Championship is held by Hacksaw Butch Reed. To win the title, Reed defeated tough Dick Murdoch. These two went at it for a couple of months before Reed finally captured the belt from the wild Murdoch.

Talented Al Perez and Wendall Cooly are the Mid South tag team champions. These two youngsters are two of the

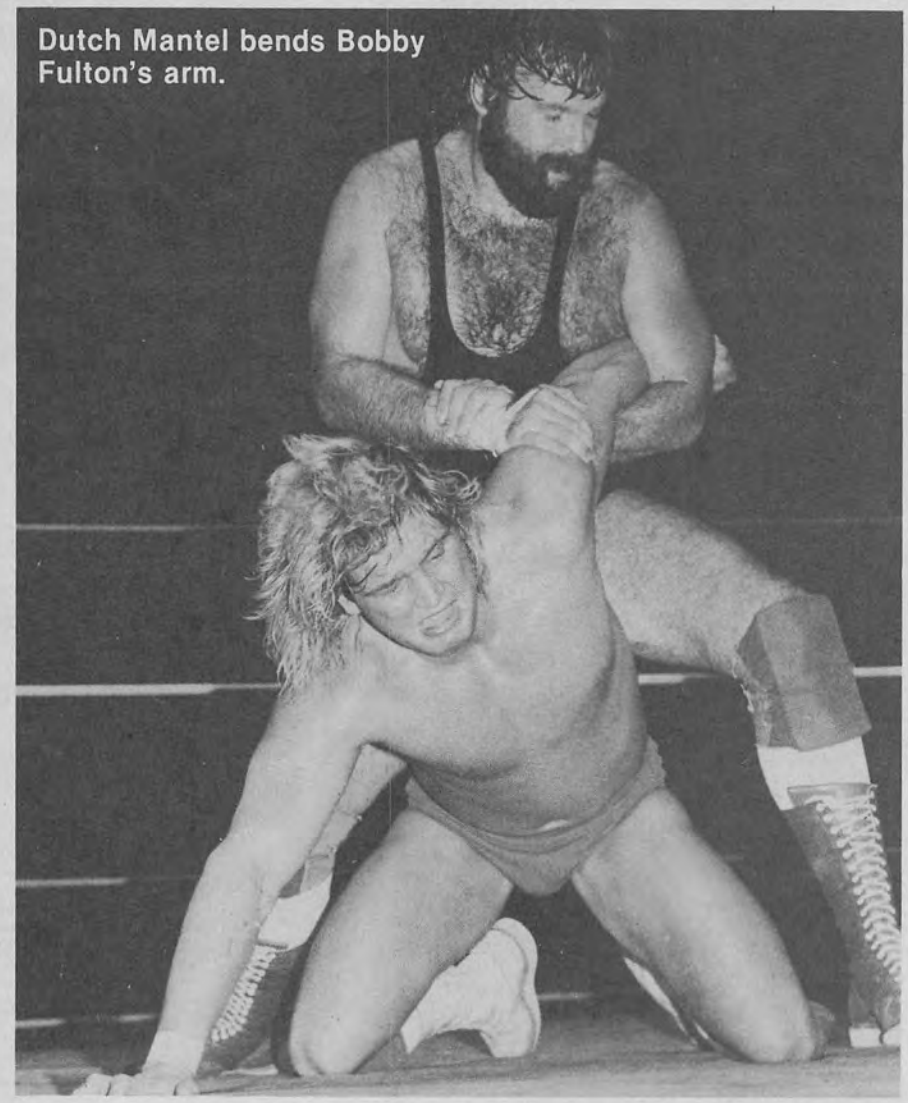


Scandor Akbar digs his fingers into Duggans face.

Wendell Cooly catches Steve "Dr. Death" Williams in a head lock.



Hacksaw Duggan tries to remove the tag team rope.

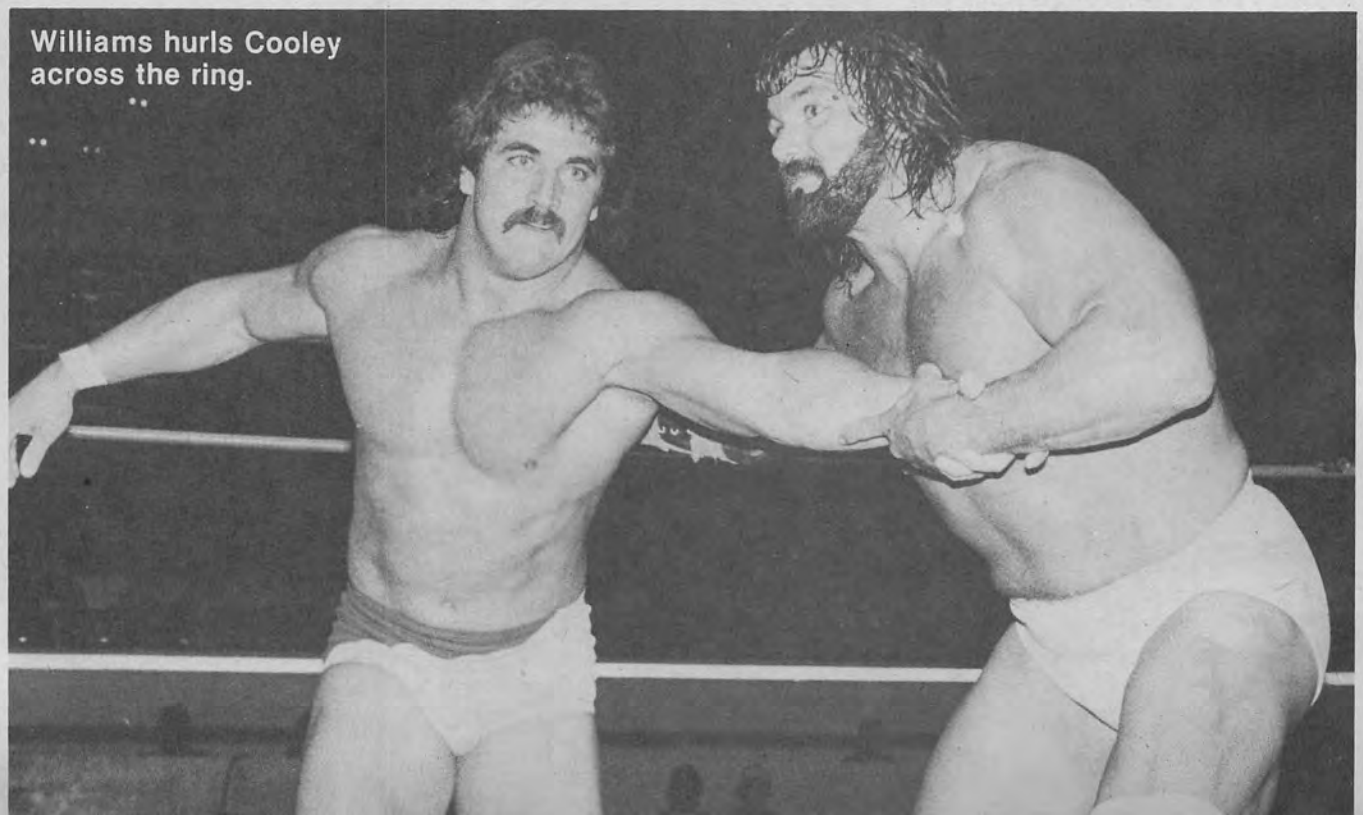


Dutch Mantel bends Bobby Fulton's arm.

The Nightmare twists Eddie Gilbert's arm.

best young stars in the sport today. This duo has been able to turn back challenges from former champions Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams, Dick Slater & Dick Murdoch and Dutch Mantel & Bill Dundee in defense of their title.

Humongous and the Barbarian, managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink, are two of the most feared men in the area. both will stop at nothing to win their bout. Their brute strength and total viciousness have left many a man battered and bruised. Their wild, crazy antics have great-



Williams hurls Cooley across the ring.

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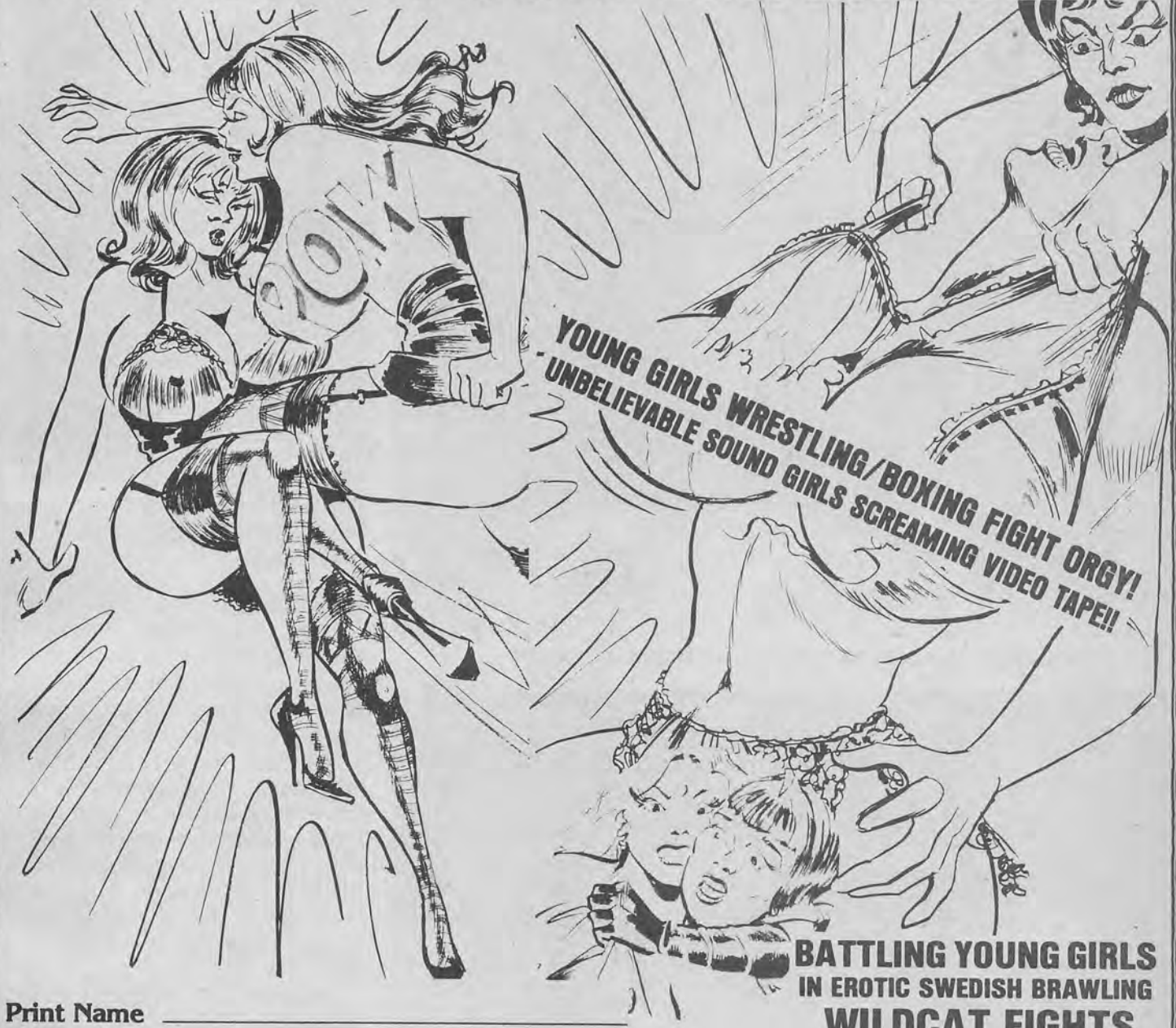

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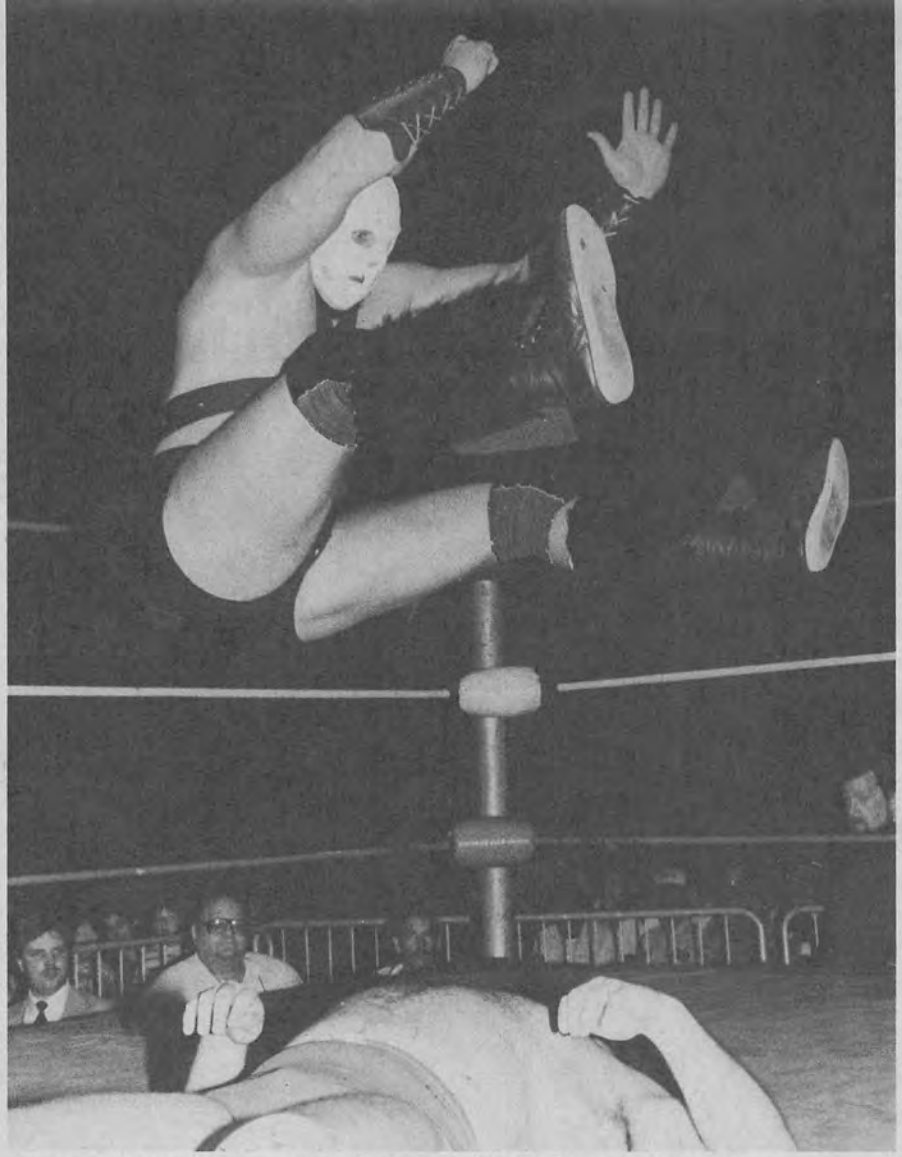
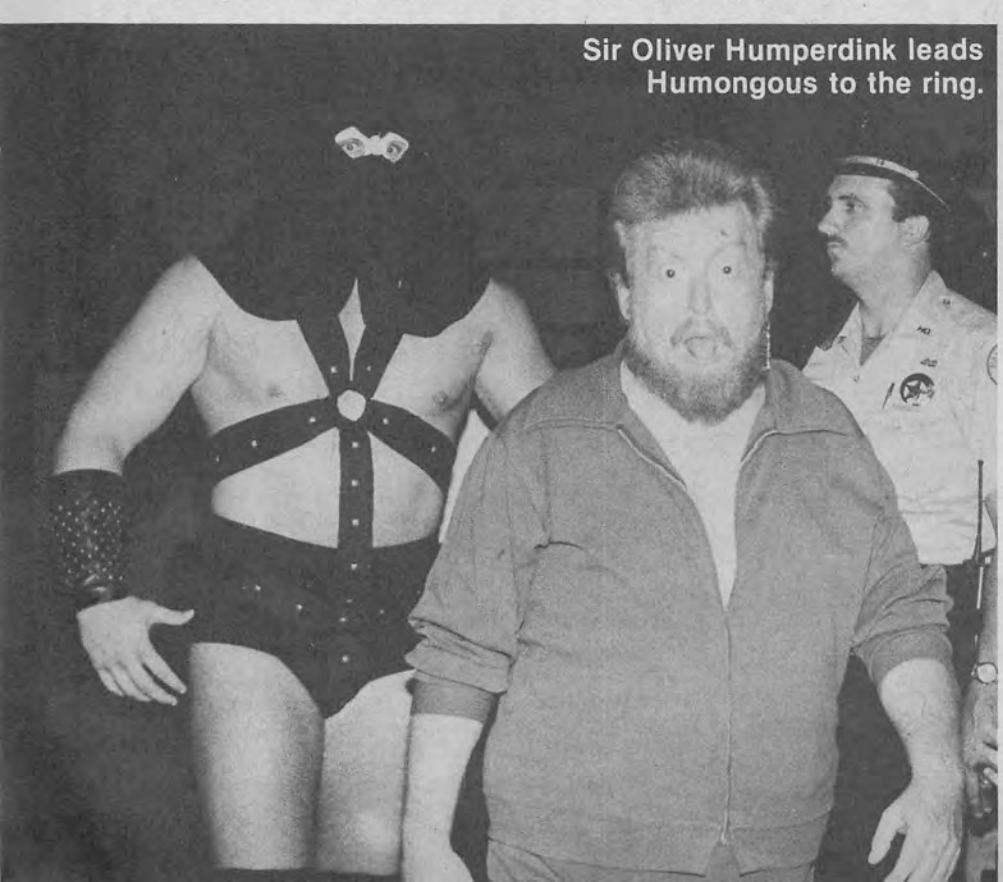


Humongous is about to land on his fallen opponent

The Nightmare lifts "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert high over head.



Sir Oliver Humperdink leads Humongous to the ring.

ly angered the one-time villain Jake "The Snake" Roberts. Roberts is personally waging a war against these two in hopes of driving them both out of the area.

Another former bad boy, "Bruiser" Bob Sweetan, is also hearing the cheers of the crowd. Sweetan is feuding with former partners Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams and has enlisted the aid of Hector Guerrero in these battles.

Besides the stars previously mentioned, men such as "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert, Chavo Guerrero, Nick Patrick, Ricky Starr and "The Nightmare" are regulars on the Mid South circuit.

All in all, if it's non-stop action that you like, check out the Mid South. You definitely won't be disappointed. ★

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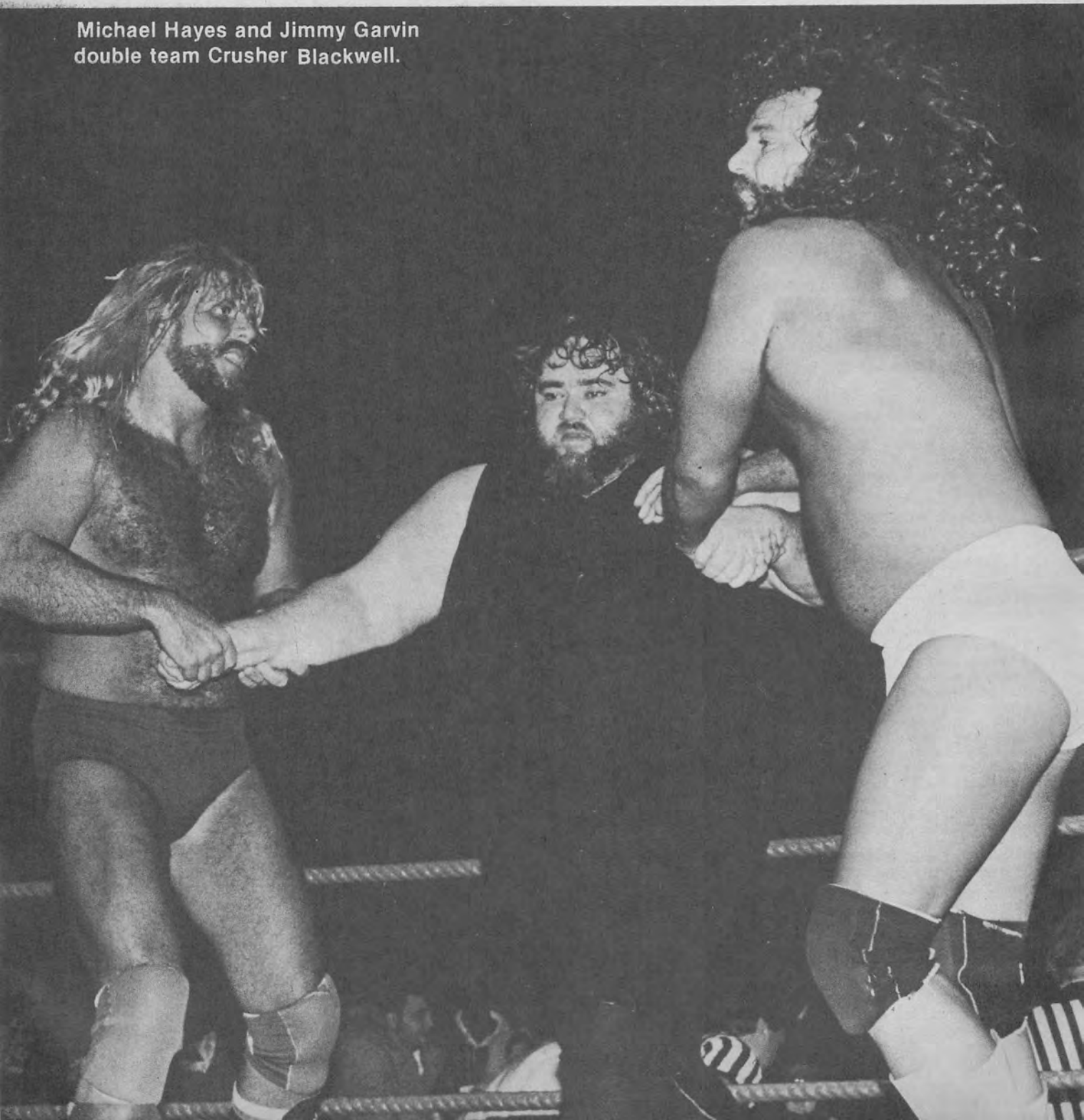
MILWAUKEE'S $100,000 ROYAL! BATTLE

By MIKE ALLEN



Michael Hayes and Jimmy Garvin double team Crusher Blackwell.

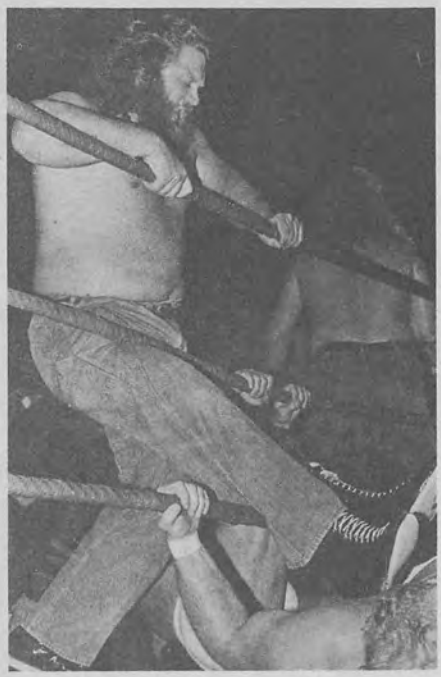
It seems that every year promoters all across America are constantly trying to develop new and interesting methods of conducting battle royals to provide excitement for fans who flock to arenas to watch this mammoth clash of humanity. For decades, battle royals were held with between twelve and twenty men competing alone for a purse ranging from $25,000 to $100,000. Recent innovations in the battle royal area have produced cage battle royals, pole battle royals, tag team battle royals and even the first coed battle royal in Atlanta a few years ago.

All of these new twists on the old battle royal concept cannot mask the fact that this is the single most dangerous match in all of wrestling. Many would argue to the contrary pointing out the severity of cage matches and lights out matches which also take their toll on fighters by sapping them of strength and blood as they compete to eliminate a hated rival. The danger associated with a battle royal runs deeper since such a large gathering of men in one ring usually rekindles old feuds which may have lain dormant for years. Add to this the atmosphere of two or three-on-one fights plus over-the-top-rope elimination and you have the makings for a career-ending match if wrestlers are not on their toes throughout the entire match.

With this in mind, AWA promoter Dennis Hilgart set out to develop a unique way of presenting the annual battle royal in Milwaukee after the tremendous response to last year's tag team battle royal. After months of thought and input from the AWA Governing Board, he won approval for his latest idea to run the battle royal as the first event of the evening with subsequent matches determined by order of elimination. For example, the first man eliminated would fight the second man eliminated, third out fights fourth, fifth fights sixth, and so on until only two men remain standing in the

The winner, Scott Hall, has his arm raised in victory.

Nick Bockwinkel is all set to eliminate Greg Gagne.



Scott Irwin plants his boot on Larry Hennig.

ring. These last two men would meet in the final match of the evening, fought under over-the-top-rope elimination rules, for the top prize of $100,000. One final stipulation was added before the match concerning tag teams: no two wrestlers would be allowed to split the prize money in half if two friends such as the Freebirds ended up in the final match. The money would be given only to the one man who emerges victorious.

This announcement was met with cheers from wrestling fans anxiously anticipating such an exciting event while many wrestlers were less enthusiastic. Their main gripe centered around their lack of knowledge of their opponents until roughly one hour before match time thus eliminating any pre-match training or strategy sessions.

Nevertheless, a total of 21 men signed up for the battle royal in hopes of picking up the $100,000. The final roster included: Jerry Blackwell, Larry and Curt Hennig, Michael Hayes, Buddy Roberts, Steve Regal, Jimmy

Scott Hall lifts Boris Zuchoff to the top of the ropes.

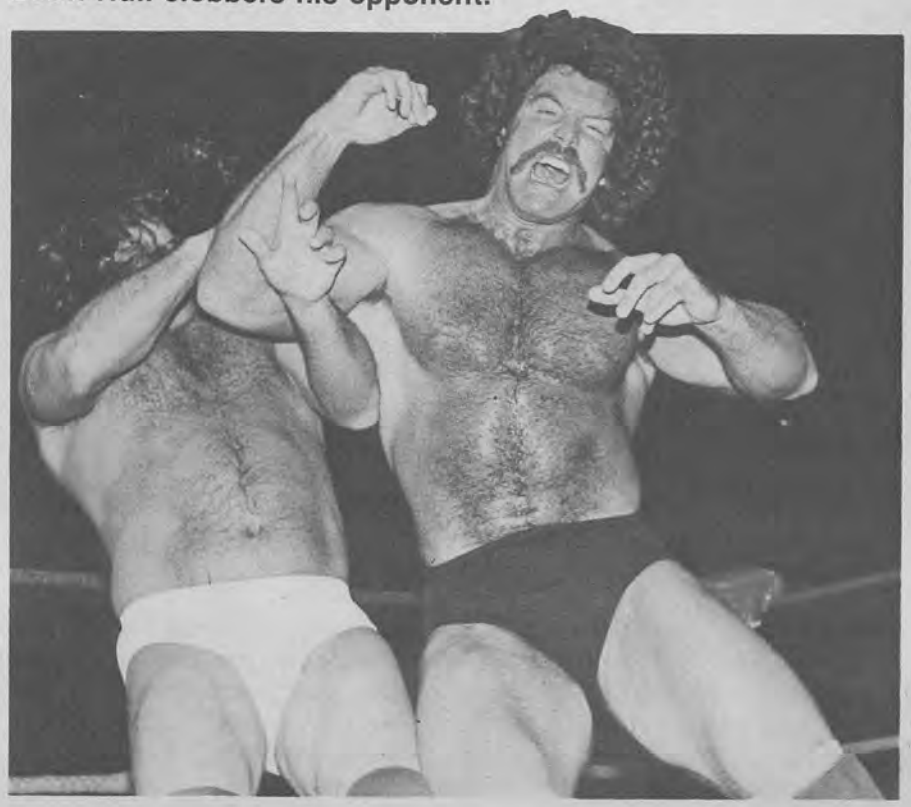
Garvin, Scott and Bill Irwin, Nick Bockwinkel, Larry Zbyszko, Greg Gagne, Rob Ricksteiner, Kelly Kiniski, Stan Hansen, Jerry America, Jerry Auratski, Greg Boyd, Leon White, Scott Hall and Boris Zukhov. With an average weight of about 250 pounds, there was more than 5200 pounds of flesh in the ring by the time the bell rang, starting the free-for-all.

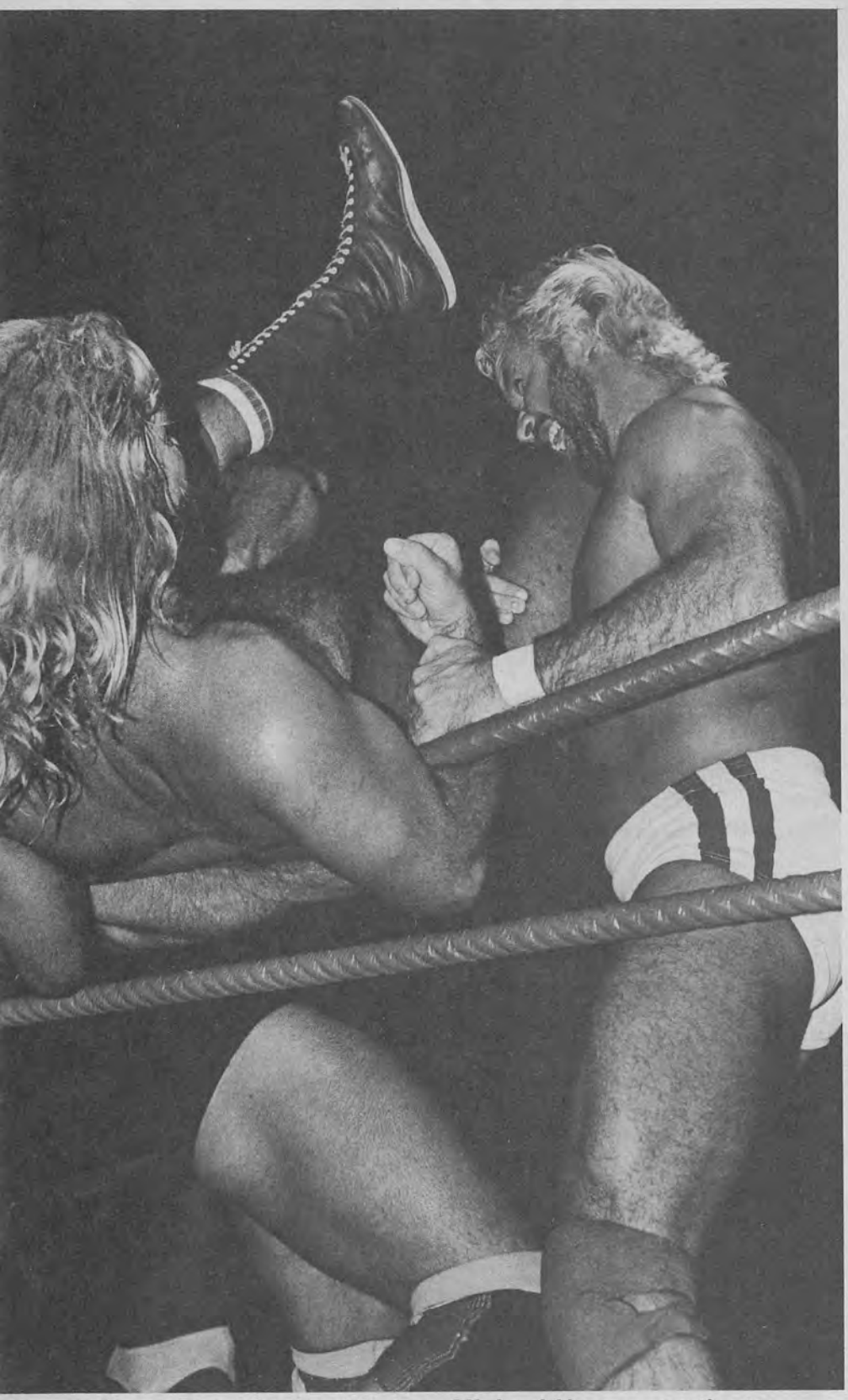
While everyone began slugging it out inside the ring, Stan Hansen paced around outside the ring, whipping everyone he could with his lariat and cowbell. The first man eliminated was Buddy Roberts who jumped out when he say Jerry Blackwell walking toward him with a smile on his face. Roberts was followed closely by Kiniski, Auratski, America and Ricksteiner who were undermatched by the larger and meaner men still in the ring. As the fighting wore on, it was apparent that Michael Hayes had his hands full as Blackwell, the Irwins, Regal and almost everyone else went after the "Bad Street" thug in retaliation for some of his past actions. Hayes kept jumping in and out of the ring, evading his enemies and keeping his head firmly attached to his shoulders.

Soon Regal, Boyd, Scott Irwin, White, Bill Irwin and Nick Bockwinkel were eliminated in that order, setting up some pretty interesting matches. As Zbyszko and Gagne were battling on the ropes, they were flipped out onto the floor and began fighting all the way back to the dressing room. Scott Hall astounded everyone with his strength, picking up Boris Zukhov and throwing him over the top rope at the same time Hansen catapulted Larry Hennig out the other side. Hansen eliminated Curt Henning who pulled the cowboy out with him onto the floor where Hansen busted Curt open with his cowbell before repeatedly running his face into the ringpost, bloodying him up. As the battle inside the ring wore on, Hansen was busy coating the ringside floor red with Hennig's blood before being apparently led away from the ring.

Finally, it was Hayes and Garvin against Hall and Blackwell, who charged their smaller rivals immediately. After gouging Hall's eyes, Hayes and Garvin whipped Blackwell into the ropes to clothesline him only to have Blackwell shoulderblock Hayes from the ring. Instead of going after Garvin, Blackwell climbed over the top rope onto the floor, conceding the match but qualify-

Scott Hall clobbers his opponent.





Steve Regal is about to toss Michael Hayes over the top ropes.

Jimmy Garvin lets out a scream as Larry "The Ax" Hennig goes to work.

ing himself for a match with Hayes. As the bell rang to end the match, Hansen again reappeared at ringside, literally dragging a semi-conscious, bleeding Curt Hennig who was being strangled with his bullrope which the madman used to fling Hennig's limp body into the steel ringpost before being driven away by an enraged Larry Hennig, who called Hansen an array of expletives.

The climatic match between Scott Hall and Jimmy Garvin was the fitting end to an exciting battle royal as Garvin used every dirty trick in the book to stop his muscular opponent while Precious distracted the referee. Even five consecutive knees to the groin could not slow down Hall as he mustered up enough strength to back drop Garvin over the top rope to win the $100,000 check. It was a sweet victory for Hall, an AWA newcomer better known to fans as "The Coyote," who has his sights set high in the wrestling world. By virtue of his victory, Hall moves himself in line for a title shot at Rick Martel or the new tag champs Garvin and Regal. With this victory under his belt, watch for Scott Hall to make a name for himself in the AWA. *

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Wrestling Returns To California

MORE DEVASTATING THAN AN EARTHQ

Ripper Savage digs his fingers into his opponent's neck muscles.

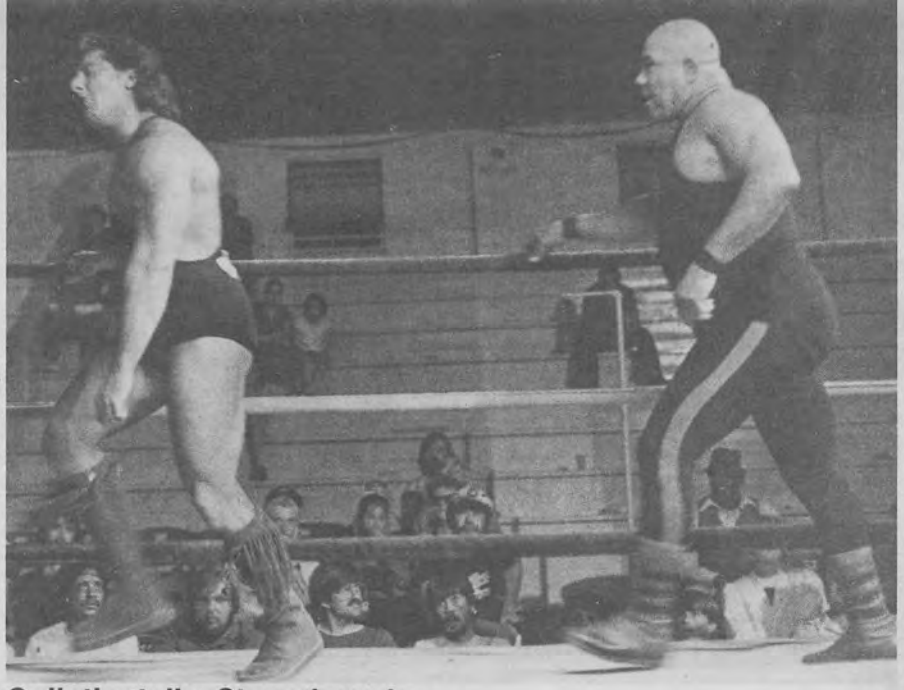
Chief Jay Strongbow Jr. sits in the ring and awaits the start of his bout.

By JACK O'SHEA
Photos By MIKE FROST

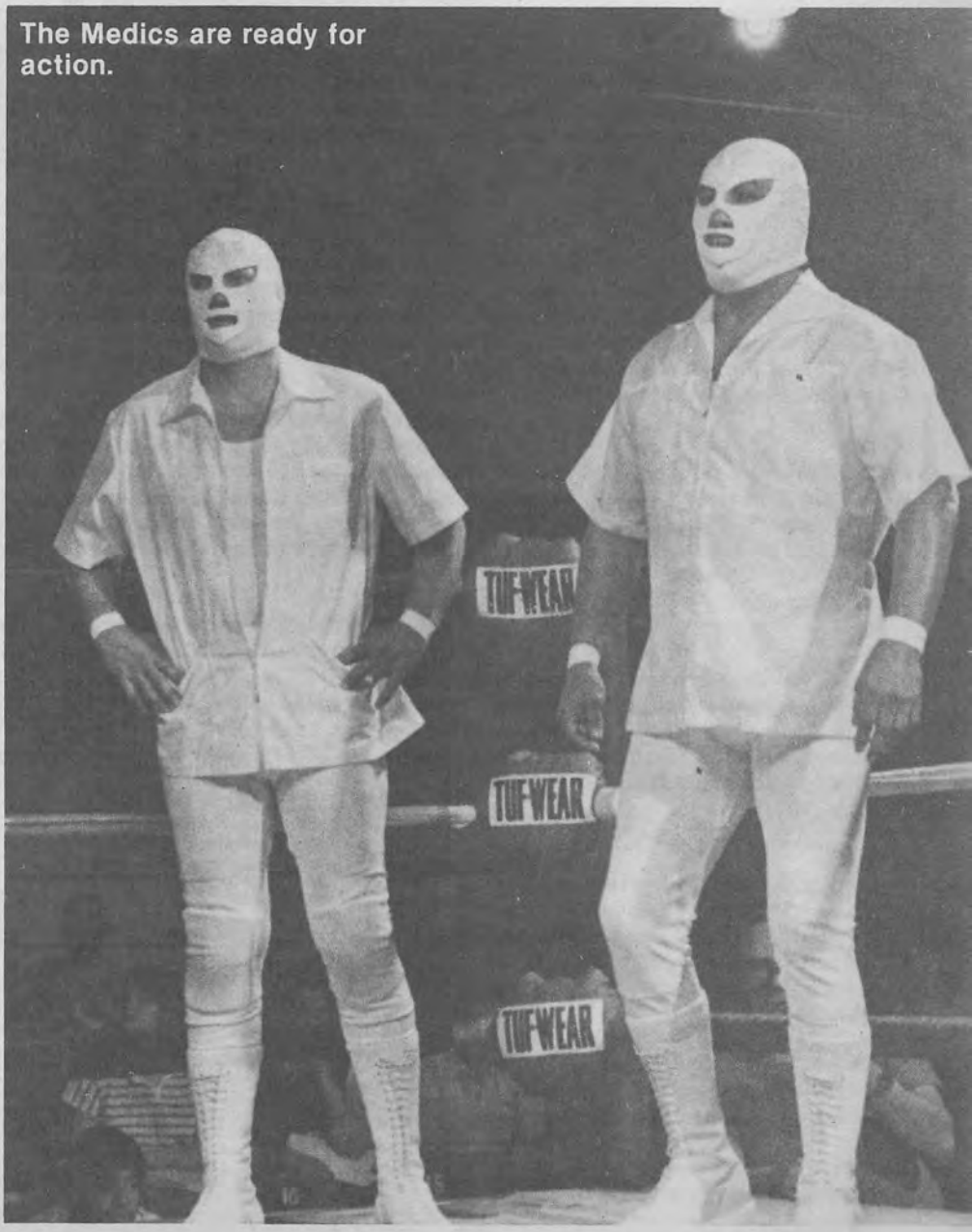
UAKE!

In the sixties and seventies, California was a hotbed of wrestling action. Stars such as Fred Blassie, John Tolos, the Sheik, Mil Mascaras, Black Gordman, Great Goliath and even Roddy Piper were some of the bigger names that called California home. Every Wednesday and Friday, the Olympic Auditorium was packed to the rafters with fans cheering their heroes and booing the villains.

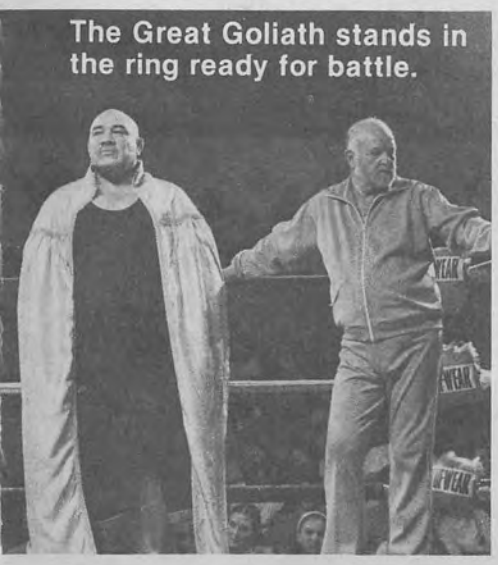
The clashes between Fred Blassie and John Tolos, Roddy Piper and Chavo Guerrero, and the Sheik and Victor Rivera were some of the wildest bouts ever seen anywhere in the world. But in the late seventies, the sport unexpectedly died on the west coast. Although everyone has their own



Goliath stalks Strongbow Jr.



The Medics are ready for action.



The Great Goliath stands in the ring ready for battle.

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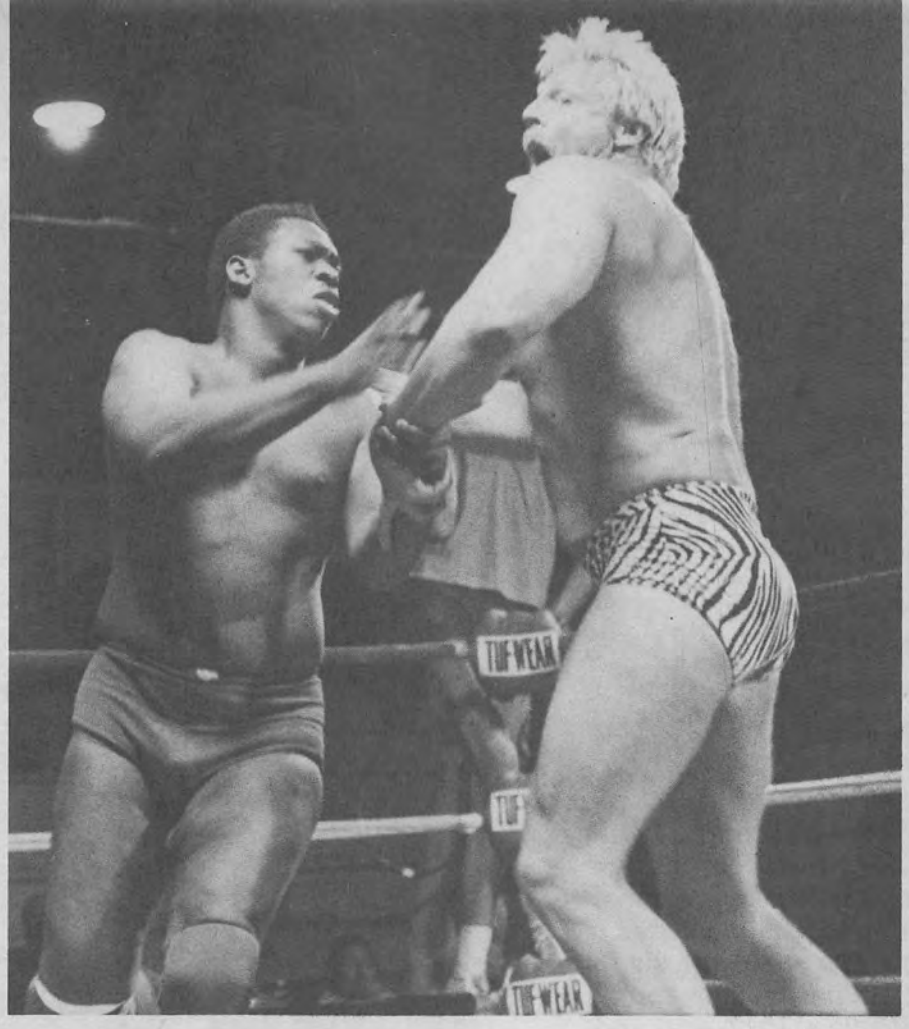
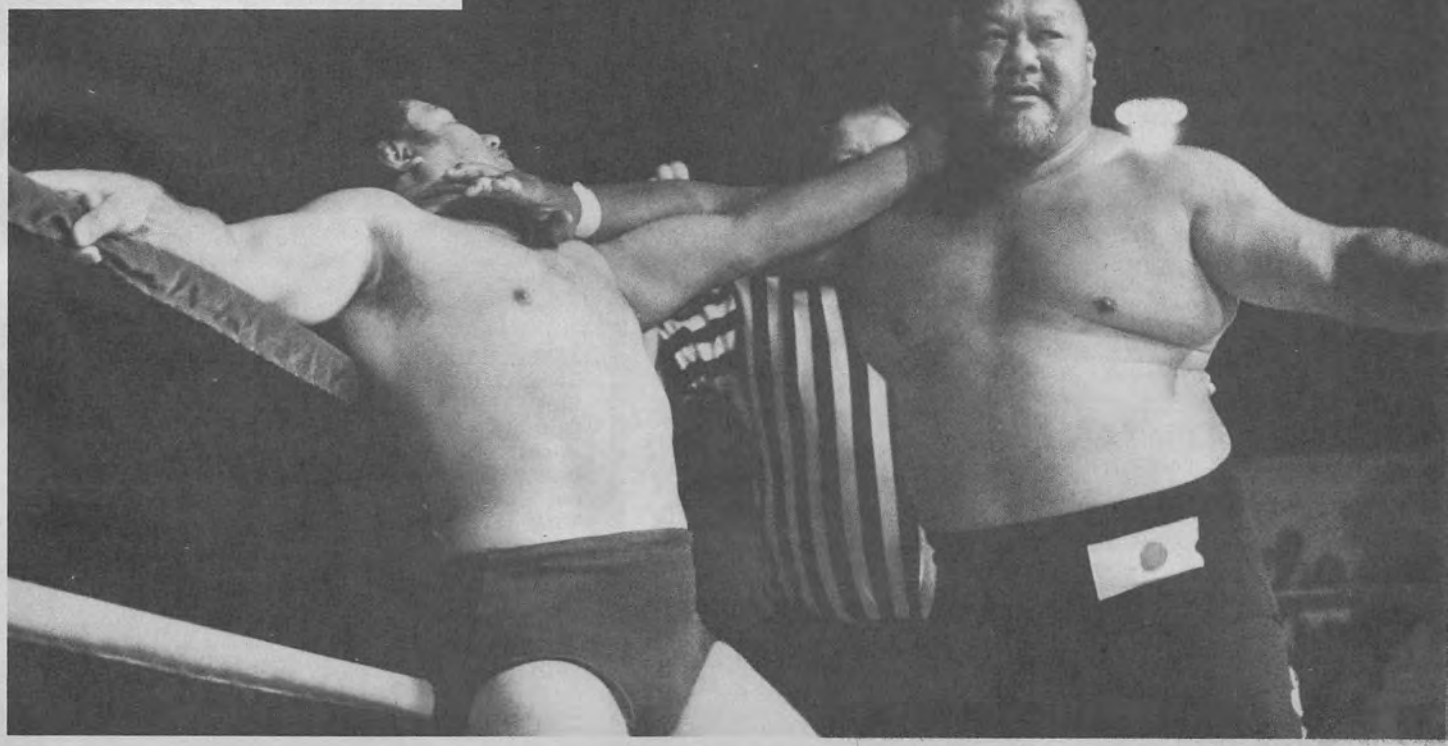
reasons, no one has ever been able to say for certain what caused the demise of the one time powerful California promotion.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity to California mat fanatics, wrestling returned to the coast. First, the WWF began to promote cards every other month in L.A. After a year, the cards were scheduled once a month. Although the matches were superb, the fans were still disappointed. They missed the weekly action.

Professor Tanaka



Tanaka judo chops his foe.



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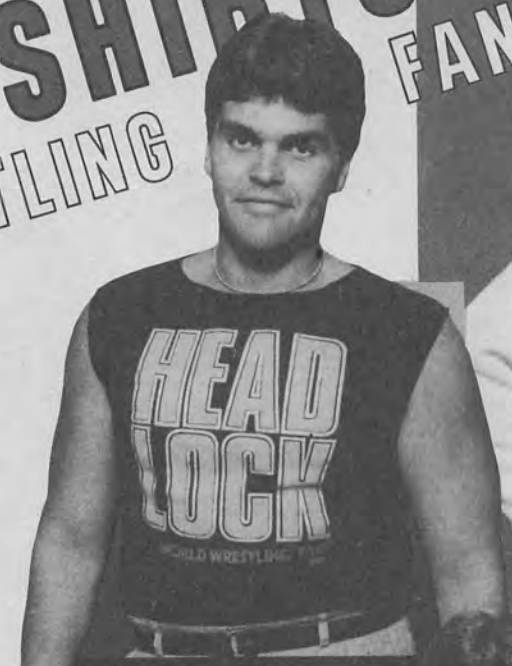

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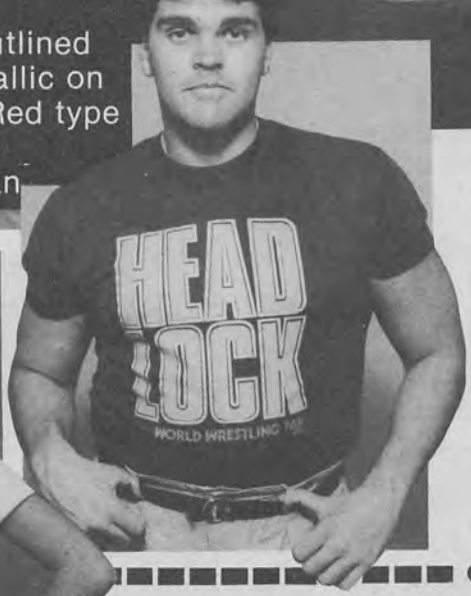

BACK BREAKER
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Now they can fret no more! A new promotion, California Championship Wrestling with Barry Richards at the helm, has sprung into action, and it promises to give the fans plenty of action and excitement. Some of the California favorites such as Earl "Mr. Universe" Maynard, Victor Rivera and the "Golden Greek," John Tolos, are involved as well as a new cast of stars and future stars. Included in this illustrious group are Professor Tanaka, the Medics, the Great Goliath, Ripper Savage, as well as muscle man Steve Strong who is managed by Tolos.

Strong hurls his opponent across the ring.

California Championship Wrestling has brought the stars back to the West Coast and on a weekly basis and the fan response is sensational. It's going to take some doing but given time it's quite possible that California Championship Wrestling could become just as big or perhaps even bigger than the California promotion of the Mike LaBell and Ms. Eaton era. ★

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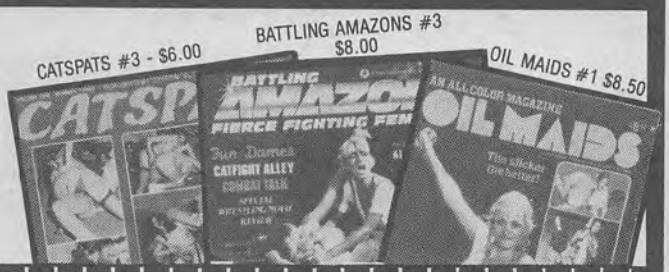

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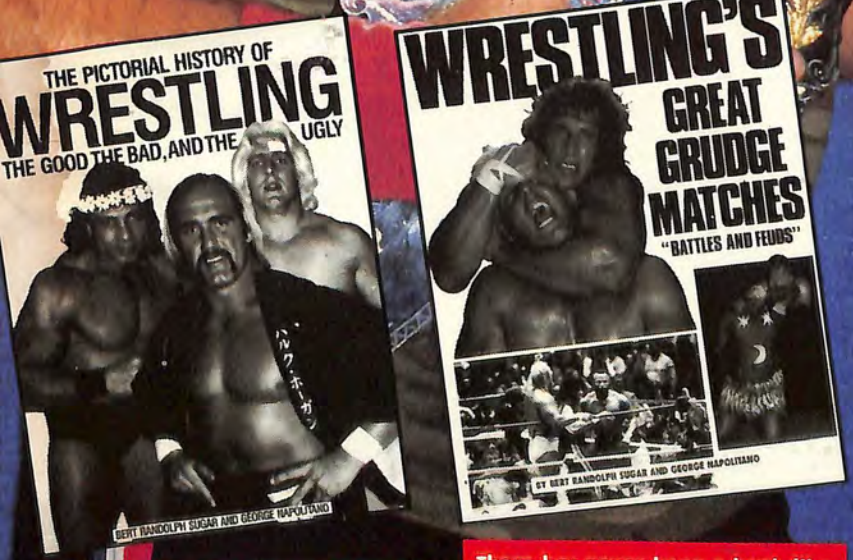

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